FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-157
Monday
15 August 1994

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-157 *15 August 1994*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

'U.S. Sources': Rabin Suspends Iraqi Contacts

JN1208173694 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Report by Hisham Milhim in Washington]

[Text] Official U.S. sources have stressed to Radio Monte Carlo that Washington, which expressed dismay after learning that Israel and Iraq have recently held secret contacts in Europe, has asked Israel to suspend these contacts immediately. It also informed Jordan that it opposes its efforts to mediate and build bridges between Baghdad and Tel Aviv.

The U.S. sources said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin informed Washington that the contacts were a limited judgment and do not represent a new policy for the state, that he did not give them great significance, and that he promised to suspend them immediately.

The Iraqi-Israeli contacts come at the time when Iraq, some UN Security Council permanent members, and several economic interests in the West and Turkey see cracks in the international sanctions against Iraq.

U.S. and Middle Eastern sources in Washington believe the Iraqi regime is seeking to break free of its regional and international isolation via an Israeli gate and that it hopes to use that gate to obtain assurances from Washington that it will not ask it for further concessions if it supports the peace process and accepts certain basic conditions stipulated in the UN Security Council resolutions, such as freezing the programs for the production of mass destruction weapons and accepting the new border demarcation with Kuwait.

U.S. officials say these contacts are not in the interests of Israel or the United States in the region as a whole. They will also have negative affect on the peace process for more than one reason, including the possibility of Syria and Iran strengthening their relations to counter these axes.

The U.S. sources note that it is still very hard, if not impossible, to promote the idea of establishing new relations between Iraq and Israel or between Washington and Baghdad, in the U.S. Congress, which is considered the main source of U.S. support for Israel.

Sha'th, Shahal Inspect Rafah, Comment on Jerusalem

JN1208145294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1030 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Report on interview with Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian "minister of planning and international cooperation," by correspondent Hasan Abu-Zayid at the Rafah crossing point on 12 August; from "With the events" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Abu-Zayid] [Israeli] Police Minister Moshe Shahal and Dr. Nabil Sha'th, official in charge of the portfolio of planning and international cooperation, toured the Rafah crossing point today and inspected its sections. Dr. Nabil Sha'th announced that the Palestinian side will take over its own section of the crossing next Sunday [21 August]. Police Minister Moshe Shahal said he came to learn about the problems that are delaying the return of the [Gaza] strip's residents to their homes for six hours. At this point, the waiting period will be reduced to two hours when new facilities are introduced.

[Passage omitted: Shahal speaking in Hebrew]

[Abu-Zayid] Minister Shahal told Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian minister of planning and international cooperation, about a list of names of Palestinians who are detained in Israeli prisons. Minister Shahal also promised to increase the number of crossing points at Rafah border area. Following his meeting with Minister Shahal at the Rafah border crossing, Dr. Nabil Sha'th made the following statement:

[Sha'th] I am very happy because you all are here to see the beginning of a real change at this crossing point. After a week, on 21 August, the Palestinian side will take over its own section of this crossing. Mr. Moshe Shahal promised to implement the agreement on this crossing, to double the number of Israeli employees and computers there, and to modernize regulations to facilitate the crossing process. I will be very happy when we both visit this crossing in one month to see the results of these changes.

I was also happy to hold talks about Palestinian prisoners. Some issues have been resolved, namely, the release of female Palestinian prisoners the day before yesterday and the improvement of the Palestinian prisoners' conditions. Releasing all these prisoners will constitute a major step toward peace. Thank you and my thanks to the guest.

[Abu-Zayid] When asked about his expected visit to Jerusalem, Dr. Nabil Sha'th refused to mention the date of the visit. He said he would visit Jerusalem in the near future. For his part, Police Minister Moshe Shahal said Dr. Nabil Sha'th can visit Jerusalem whenever he wishes.

[Sha'th] I will go there soon.

[Shahal, in Arabic] You are welcome, why not?

Erez Talks Resume; Delegates View Hamas Arrests

TA1508112094 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal]

[Excerpt] [Announcer] This morning, the Israeli-PLO talks were resumed at the Erez checkpoint in the shadow of yesterday's attack at Kissufim Junction.

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Arriving at the military installation in Erez, Dr. Nabil Sha'th confirmed the arrest of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists:

[Begin Sha'th recording, in English] We are not denying, we are not saying we will take this slightly. We are taking this very seriously. Our cabinet met all last night to take up measures that will take the perpetrators to justice and will prevent and preempt operations like this from happening in the future. We recognize very much that security here is our responsibility, and we are taking it very seriously. [end recording]

[Announcer] Sha'th again condemned the Hamas terrorist attacks and said they are a violation of the Israeli-PLO agreement.

Major General Dani Rothschild said earlier that the Palestinian police has the ability to act against Hamas and that, therefore, Israel holds the Palestinian leadership, including Yasir 'Arafat, accountable. Reacting to the arrest of the Hamas activists, Rothschild voiced satisfaction:

[Begin Rothschild recording] I think it is a step in the right direction for the Palestinian Authority, because people who expect agreements to be implemented should be able to honor them in both spirit and letter. Since no agreement can be implemented as long as terrorist attacks are carried out, the Palestinian Authority has done well in arresting Hamas and other extreme Islamic activists who are opposed to peace and who carry out attacks. [end recording]

[Announcer] As for the peace talks, the central issue here is West Bank taxation and tax collection. A team headed by Deputy Tax Commissioner Yoni Kaplan is now drafting a document with practical recommendations for the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

PLO-Israeli Customs, VAT Agreement Said Close

TA1408121794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] Arye Zeif, director of the Treasury's Customs and Value Added Tax [VAT] Department, informed the members of the Palestinian delegation to the customs and VAT talks today that the government will forward an additional 6.5 million shekels to the Palestinians in the next few days, this in addition to the seven million shekels in import taxes which have already been transferred.

Our economic affairs correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that in today's talks between the two delegations it has been decided that over the next few days Israeli and Palestinian customs inspectors will start cooperating at the Rafah and Allenby Bridge border terminals. The two teams are nearing an agreement on the procedures for transferring to the Palestinians the funds from customs duties levied on imports to the autonomy, and on offsetting the VAT accumulated from deals between Israelis and businessmen from Jericho and Gaza.

Early Empowerment Finance Agreement Draft Set

TA1208102994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Aug 94 pp A1, A10

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpt] Israel and the PLO have completed the draft proposal for the financing of early empowerment in the West Bank. It will be presented to the donor countries soon. According to the proposal, the donors will give the Palestinians $30 million in interim funding to operate the authorities for six months.

The joint document states that the budget needed for the operation of the health, education, welfare, and tourism authorities in the West Bank in the first six months reaches $54 million. It is estimated that taxes collected from the residents of the West Bank will finance less than half the budget, and interim funding will be required to make ends meet.

In the document drafted jointly by the Israeli and the PLO delegations to the Cairo talks, the Palestinians will try to quickly learn how to collect taxes, and to do their best to extensively collect income and value added taxes in the West Bank. Israel pledged to assist in the establishment of the Palestinian tax collection apparatus and to provide the Palestinian Authority with Israeli taxation experts and advisers.

Terje Larsen, head of the UN apparatus aiding the Palestinian self-government, met Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin last night. In the meeting, Larsen offered that the UN supervise the receipt of aid funds for the Palestinians and act as a "bridge" between the donor countries and the Palestinian Authority. He explained that the UN will supervise and account for the way the money is being used, as the donors have demanded.

Rabin told Larsen that Israel is interested in the economic development of the autonomy and noted that experience regarding the UN involvement in this issue is positive. At the same time, he avoided explicitly supporting the UN offer. [passage omitted]

[The same issue of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ carries two related reports by Yosi Torpstein on page A2. The 600-word report adds: "the Israel-PLO early empowerment negotiations ended with an agreement on four of the five areas over which the Palestinians are to assume authority: health, education, welfare, and tourism." The report says that the parties "reached agreement on how the two governing entities will coexist in the same area and apply to the same population, but the agreement was not signed due to disagreement on the fifth area of authority—taxation."

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["Israel notified the Palestinians that it will not be willing to hand over any of the authorities until it becomes clear just how the Palestinians intend to finance ongoing activity."

[A 300-word related report by Yosi Torpstein adds: "The Civil Administration has banned the Palestinians from carrying out an extensive data-collecting survey in Palestinian settlements in the West Bank as part of their preparations for the elections. The elections are planned to take place after the five authorities are handed over to the Palestinian self-government and after the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeploys in the West Bank. The survey was organized by the Palestinian Center for Statistics, headed by Dr. Hasan Abu-Libdah." "In the survey, planned for three months, the Palestinians wish to study the size of population in each of the settlements, and to collect extensive data on economics, health, education, and other services."

[The article cites reasons for the ban: "The center is not allowed to carry out polls, surveys, or any other activities in the areas of the West Bank under Israel's administration; it may do that in the areas of the Palestinian Authority of Gaza and Jericho."

["The center's head offices are located in Jerusalem and are not legally registered." In addition "Israel does not recognize the center's activity in the West Bank and Jerusalem as official acts which are binding on the Civil Administration, even if their aim is to assist the preparations for the elections, which will be held according to the Israel-PLO agreement."]

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Denounces UNSC 'Inaction' on Lebanon

NC1408145294 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] Ambassador 'Adnan 'Imran, assistant secretary general of the Arab League, has deplored the failure of the UN Security Council [UNSC] to denounce Israel's military aggression against Lebanon. He said that this failure is a cause for deep concern because it implies that the UNSC equates an aggressive occupation force with Lebanon, a country that rejects occupation and seeks to liberate its land.

The Arab League official said that the UNSC's inaction has weakened its credibility and has disappointed UN members who still believe in UN principles. Arab countries are firmly behind Lebanon in its rejection of occupation and determination to restore its full rights and end the occupation, 'Imran declared.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Chairs Emergency National Authority Meeting

'Regrettable' Incidents Discussed

JN1508081394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] The Palestinian National Authority [PNA] met yesterday evening under His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat.

An official spokesman said after the meeting that the PNA discussed the regrettable and irresponsible incidents that took place at the crossroad [tariq 'ardi] No. 4, and made several decisions to tackle these incidents and their repercussions, and issued instructions to the national security organs to immediately implement them.

The statement [as heard] says that the PNA affirms that, stemming from its eagerness to meticulously implement its obligations, will not tarry in adopting the appropriate measures and arrangements to safeguard security and stability.

The statement adds that the PNA also will not permit any party whatsoever to imperil the safety of citizens or breach its domestic edifice, particularly at this stage which calls for mobilizing all potentials to render a success our difficult and glorious experiment of building our homeland, entrenching the sovereignty of the law on our land and citizens, and completing our national tasks over the rest of the Palestinian territories.

The statement adds that the PNA, which carries out its duty and fulfills its responsibilities and commitments, calls on the Israeli command to adopt the appropriate measures to terminate the settlers irresponsible activities which endanger security and stability. The commanders of the Palestinian police and security forces attended part of the meeting.

The meeting comes following the incident in which one Israeli was killed and seven others were wounded in two operations at the entrance to the Gaza Strip, north of Khan Yunus. The Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement claimed responsibility for these operations.

'Arafat Condemns Hamas

TA1508061194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Report by Moti Amir]

[Text] 'Arafat has postponed his trip to Alexandria because of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations resuming this morning and in the wake of the grave terrorist attacks yesterday in Kissufim. Following an emergency session of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] in Gaza in the wake of the attacks, 'Arafat informed Egyptian President Husni Mubarak that he is forced to postpone his visit to Egypt for the time being.

Also last night, 'Arafat asked Dr. Nabil Sha'th to inform Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres that he condemns the attacks and that he has instructed the Palestinian police to take action to safeguard security on the autonomy roads. His remarks sounded like more futile promises, however, because although 39 gunfire attacks have been perpetrated in the Strip since the beginning of autonomy—as Brigadier General Doron Almog, commander of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops in the Gaza Strip, stated yesterday—none of the terrorists has been apprehended by the Palestinian police.

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[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0400 GMT on 15 August adds that " 'Arafat last night ordered the Palestinian police to take vigorous action to thwart attacks being launched by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] from the autonomous area against Israelis. According to a senior Palestinian source, 'Arafat told the police such attacks are a blow to the Palestinian national security and the peace process.

["Palestinian police last night conducted large-scale searches for the terrorists in the Khan Yunus and Dayr al-Balah areas.

["The PNA last night condemned the actions of Hamas as irresponsible. At a special meeting convened by Yasir 'Arafat, the council of the authority said it had adopted what it called measures to preserve the security of the autonomous zones. A communique issued at the end of the meeting said the PNA would not hesitate to take all measures necessary to maintain security. We shall not permit any party to threaten the security of our citizens or defy Palestinian national sovereignty or cause a split in the internal front, especially in these difficult circumstances, the communique said."]

Against this backdrop, the Israeli-Palestinian early empowerment negotiations are due to resume at the Erez checkpoint this morning. The Palestinians fear that under the circumstances, Gaza and Jericho First will become Gaza and Jericho only, and since Israel has already informed 'Arafat that continued terror will harm the process, they are in a rush to expand the autonomy. In any event, Major General Dani Rothschild, the chief Israeli delegate to the talks with the Palestinians, announced last night that he does not believe the negotiations will end within the two days Rabin and 'Arafat allocated for the purpose at their meeting last week.

[Begin Rothschild recording] We still have a number of quite complicated issues to discuss, and we will make every effort to conclude them as soon as possible. If you expect me to guarantee that it will end tomorrow or the day after tomorrow, I know better than that. The open issues include direct taxation in the territories and everything it entails; the various aspects of enforcement; budget issues; and the matter of the general agreement, which has not been drafted yet and which, as we know from the experience of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, is liable to be quite a problem in itself. [end recording]

'Arafat was apparently informed last night that unless the commanders of the Palestinian police and the Palestinian security forces in the Gaza Strip—Nasr Yusuf, Muhammad Dahlan, and Amin al-Hindi—take action to curb Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terror, the negotiations on early empowerment in Judaea and Samaria will take a long time.

PNA Member Views Security Measures

JN1508120094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1005 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Interview with PNA member Furayh Abu-Middayn by 'Umar Zaydani in Gaza; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-Middayn] The Palestinian National Authority [PNA] meeting was held in light of the events that are taking place. As you know, several incidents took place. A specific policy was adopted by the council of ministers and the security commanders in the Gaza Strip yesterday. Actually, the security issue is a pressing issue and is always on our minds. That's why security should be controlled in both a logical and safe manner. There is the question of carrying arms and other security issues which should be controlled one way or another. We should not leave them as they are. The security situation is gradually being controlled. A new policy was adopted whose details we cannot disclose. In short, it consists of maintaining a normal and secure state of affairs, especially since there is a future concept for a solution. That's why we should render successful the model we have signed and by which we abide with respect to Gaza and Jericho. This calls for a stable security situation, particularly that the Gaza Strip is a narrow, isolated, and besieged place.

Perhaps there is a joint responsibility. But, we have been warning since Madrid and Washington that the presence of 2,000 to 3,000 settlers in the midst of 1 million Palestinians cannot but bring about a permanent tense and confused security situation which cannot be controlled in the manner the Israels want. There are fewer than 3,000 settlers—settlements in Gaza are disappearing—who enjoy water, the land and other things. This has brought about daily friction which cannot be controlled in the way any person wishes.

[Zaydani] But the PNA probably realizes that besides what you have mentioned about the settlements, there are elements which oppose the agreement?

[Abu-Middayn] Naturally. Political opposition is permitted. We want a strong political opposition because this consolidates our stand. The problem is not there. The problem revolves around the security issue. Problems always occur at crossroads. But, there will be tight Palestinian control on these crossroads in the future. On this basis, I believe that political opposition poses no problems. The carrying of arms is also a problem for the PNA. One does not say what everyone knows at this stage.

[Zaydani] Everyone knows that there is a problem in Gaza, that of citizens carrying weapons. Will the Palestinian police and security forces carry out a campaign to collect these weapons?

[Abu-Middayn] Yes, there will be such a campaign. Those who wish to carry arms should apply for a licence. The carrying of weapons on the street, at weddings, and on other occasions is banned. The issue has exceeded the proper limits, and should be forcefully checked this time.

[Zaydani] One last question about the Palestinian police force carrying out its duties. It is true that it is a newly established force and Israel understands this. But have clear instructions been issued to the Palestinian police force tonight to work for maintaining order with all means?

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[Abu-Middayn] There are clear instructions in this regard.

[Zaydani] Mr. Furayh Abu-Middayn, PNA member, thank you very much.

Security Service Arrests 30 Hamas Activists in Gaza

TA1508084994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Excerpt] The Palestinian security service last night carried out arrests among Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists in the Gaza Strip on the PLO chief's orders. This was reported by Palestinian sources in the Strip to our correspondent Yosi Ben-Menahem. The sources added that 30 activists have been arrested in Gaza and Dayr al-Balah and more are expected to be taken into custody today.

The arrested activists include Muhsin Abu-Aytah, director of a Gaza charity society, and Ahmad al-Kurd, head of one of the Islamic societies in Dayr al-Balah. Also among those arrested are two Hamas activists who were released from Israeli prisons about a month ago, after pledging to use only democratic ways in opposing the peace process. The two are Nasr 'Abduh, who was active in the Hamas military arm, and Shaykh Salam al-Safadi. [passage omitted]

Hamas: Arrests 'Dangerous Development'

NC1508105694 Paris AFP in English 1015 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Amman, August 15 (AFP)—The hardline Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, dubbed as "a dangerous development" the arrest Monday of 10 of its activists by Palestinian police, and said it held PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat "personally responsible."

"We would like to remind the Palestinian authority that resisting the mojahedin (holy fighters) is considered a red line that should not be crossed," Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah told AFP.

Ghawshah underlined that "the pursuit of armed struggle is a religious and national issue, and 'Arafat and his authority cannot fight it."

"No power on earth is capable of halting our people from pursuing their resistance," he said, adding the struggle was not against the peace accords but the "Zionist occupation."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin threatened to halt the peace process with the PLO if it failed to take serious measures to end the violence which has left one Israeli dead and 10 wounded.

The Palestinian authority condemned the attacks late Sunday as "irresponsible" in one of its strongest reactions to anti-Israeli operations.

Palestinian police, who last May took over from the Israeli troops in Gaza, rounded up the Hamas activists in Gaza Strip.

Five of the arrested, including Muhsin Abu-'Aytah, one of the group's top leaders, live in Gaza City.

The other five live in Dayr al-Balah in the south of the Strip.

PNA Delegations Formed; To Visit Jordan, Egypt

JN1308154694 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1415 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[Text] The members of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] met at PNA headquarters on the Gaza shore this morning under President Yasir 'Arafat. The meeting lasted until 1600.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, said it was decided during the weekly ministerial meeting to form two Palestinian delegations. The first delegation will leave for Cairo to invite the Arab leaders to adopt the Palestinian passport. The second delegation will leave for Jordan to strengthen Palestinian-Jordanian relations.

The PNA also discussed the opening of the safe passage between Gaza and Jericho, scheduled to be opened this Monday [15 August]. Palestinians from the self-rule areas will thus be able to move from Gaza to Jericho and vice versa without permits. The PNA also discussed the Gaza cleanup plan which will employ 12,000 workers from the Gaza Strip and which will begin next month. The PNA members also discussed the issue of the release of the detainees.

Minister Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said a Palestinian delegation comprising politicians and security people will leave for Jordan this week to hold consultations on strengthening relations, solving marginal differences, and achieving economic and administrative integration.

PNA 'Minister' Sha'th Arrives on Visit to Jerusalem

Notes Significance of Visit

TA1208141994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] This afternoon Nabil Sha'th arrived in Jerusalem, where he met with Faysal al-Husayni, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, and several other Palestinian leaders.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that upon his arrival, Sha'th said he believes his visit to East Jerusalem definitely has political significance. He further said that Jerusalem is a city sacred to all and that he plans to stay there for two days and visit churches as well.

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Comments on Temple Mount Visit

TA1208185394 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Italicized passages recorded in English]

[Text] [Announcer] Dr. Nabil Sha'th visited the Temple Mount this afternoon accompanied by Mr. Faysal al-Husayni and some of his senior advisers. This is the first official visit by a high-ranking PLO official to the Temple Mount. The visit took place after coordination with Police Minister Moshe Shahal.

[Sha'th] *I feel very happy, I feel great. I feel this is one of the happiest days of my life.*

[Unidentified correspondent] *Is this a dream come true for you, sir?*

[Sha'th] *It is a dream come true, and I am very happy. It is really almost unreal, but I always dreamt about it and always thought it will come.*

[Announcer] Dr. Sha'th had lunch with Faysal al-Husayni at the National Hotel in East Jerusalem. Dr. Nabil Sha'th said his visit has political significance which symbolizes the importance of the holy city for everyone.

[Correspondent] *Dr. Sha'th, the reason the Israelis are giving you the permission to come and visit Jerusalem, has that something to do with the permission they are giving to King Husayn? They want to balance King Husayn's visit, so they are giving you permission to come here?*

[Sha'th] *This is our hometown. This is the most important town in the world for all of us and, therefore, I don't link my coming here with the visit of anybody. I hope that Jerusalem will be a city for peace, in which everybody can come here and pray and in which my people can enjoy their freedom.*

[Correspondent] *I hear that King Husayn will be intending to visit Jerusalem next week. What is your comment about that?*

[Sha'th] *I really have no idea, but as you know we welcome anybody, and as you know Mr. 'Arafat himself said that he will be very happy for King Husayn to come and pray here.*

On Permanent Status of East Jerusalem

TA1308150694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0705 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Report on interview with Nabil Sha'th by Moti Amir at Orient House in East Jerusalem on 12 August—recorded; Sha'th remarks in English]

[Excerpts] [Amir] Nabil Sha'th has not seen Temple Mount for 46 years and, he says, his first visit yesterday was a dream come true.

[Sha'th] I think this place has its special value—its special shrines, its holy places, which are important to every Muslim, to every Christian, and to every Jew. So, it has a very special place in the hearts of everybody. But, again, I think you cannot separate this holiness from the political aspect. As we have learned, for peace, to share Palestine, we have to learn—in peace—to share Jerusalem. And, Jerusalem is for us, like Palestine: Palestine looked at one time undividable, and Jerusalem now to many of us looks undividable. But we have to learn how to...[pauses] Each one has to live in his own part, but no more walls of Berlin, no more walls of hatred. There should be connecting roads of cooperation and peace.

[Amir translates above and continues] Touring the Old City after a prayer in al-Aqsa, Dr. Sha'th made this observation somewhat differently—perhaps to gratify the Palestinians:

[Sha'th] In our view, as Israelis and Palestinians learned how to share Palestine, they must learn how to share Jerusalem. And we want to negotiate the status of Jerusalem in the permanent negotiations. Our position will be that Eastern Jerusalem should be the capital of our independent state.

[Amir translates above and continues] This morning Sha'th will travel to Gaza to attend the weekly session of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], chaired by Yasir 'Arafat, and he may tour Bethlehem this evening.

Asked when 'Arafat and King Husayn will visit Jerusalem—separately, of course—Sha'th says each has his own calculations. [passage omitted]

It should be noted that Dr. Sha'th and his entourage arrived in Jerusalem without a security escort. In fact, they did so after a series of ploys which were so successful that the Jerusalem Police were surprised to hear that Sha'th, who was believed to have just departed the Erez checkpoint, had already arrived in the city. [passage omitted]

With regard to political issues, Dr. Sha'th believes genuine breakthroughs will take place in the early empowerment talks—including direct taxation—in the course of the coming week.

[Sha'th] We must finish quickly, so that Gaza and Jericho First will not be Gaza and Jericho last, and that the commitment of both of us, Palestinians and Israelis, in the DOP [Declaration of Principles] means that we have to spread the PA [Palestinian Autonomy] authority in the West Bank as soon as possible. In these next two days—Monday and Tuesday—in Erez, we committed ourselves—Dani [Major General Rothschild] and I—to Mr. Rabin and Mr. 'Arafat, to finish. If we don't, then we go to Cairo on Wednesday with Mr. Peres and the liaison committee and we finish, and then we report to Mr. 'Arafat and Mr. Rabin the Monday after.

[Amir translates above and continues] Referring to the Palestinians' financial and budgetary difficulties, Sha'th says: All we can do is hope that our people will pay their taxes as they did to Israel.

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[Sha'th] That is really our problem. We have to urge our people to continue to pay us the taxes that they used to pay the Israelis, in order to do that. And that is the only problem we have to overcome.

[Amir] Sha'th says that only by collecting taxes will they be able to finance the autonomy's education and health expenditures in Judaea and Samaria, amounting to some $120 million annually.

Discusses Crossing Points, Other Issues

JN1408174794 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1415 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian "minister of planning and international cooperation," in Nabulus, by Ibrahim Milhim—live]

[Text] [Milhim] Hello, Dr. Sha'th.

[Sha'th] Yes.

[Milhim] Good evening.

[Sha'th] Good evening.

[Milhim] Dr. Sha'th, to start with, this morning your toured the old streets of Jerusalem. How did you find the flower of all cities?

[Sha'th] The most beautiful city in the world. One is spending the most beautiful moments in the city—the dream, which has always been in my mind, my imagination, my heart all these years in the diaspora. It is marvelous to return to Jerusalem and one does not wish to leave it. It gives one a spirit of power to continue this work to realize all of our people's hopes, God willing.

[Milhim] You are now in Nabulus as we have learned.

[Sha'th] Yes.

[Milhim] What is the purpose of your visit to the city?

[Sha'th] In fact, in my capacity as a minister of planning, I have to put the initial plans for the future phase. In the near future, the Palestinian National Authority will move to the West Bank, at least in the five principal fields which we agreed to transfer [from Israel to the Palestinian National Authority]. We will meet tomorrow in Erez to continue discussion on this transfer. Therefore, I am on an inspection tour. I met with the brother members of the Nabulus municipal council, headed by brother Ghassan al-Sha'kah. I am also touring the homeland, which we have always missed and longed to return to.

[Milhim] Dr. Sha'th, are there any obstacles preventing the early transfer of powers?

[Sha'th] There are some obstacles which the Israelis are placing. I think that at many times, whenever we get close to signing an agreement, they show some hesitation and come out with certain reasons and pretexts to delay things. They, for example, say we have to provide the necessary funds to run these facilities and departments. They think we will not be able to provide these funds through the taxes they used to collect. We say this is our business, and not yours. We are confident that our people, who used to pay taxes to the occupation authorities, will willingly pay them to the Palestinian National Authority so it can provide the necessary services in education, health, culture, social affairs, and tourism during the first stage, which is supposed to start at the end of this month. There are some problems related to the implementation and the legislature during this interim stage, but I think we can overcome all of them. I believe if we cannot transfer these powers during our meeting which will be held tomorrow and the day after tomorrow at Erez, then we will do that in our meeting which will be held in either Cairo or Alexandria on Wednesday [17 August], when the liaison committee—in which I head the Palestinian side while Shim'on Peres heads the Israeli side—meets.

[Milhim] What about the security corridor between Gaza and Jericho and the crossing points?

[Sha'th] Minister Moshe Shahal stated in my presence, while we were visiting the Rafah crossing point on Friday, that the measures relating to the security corridor will be implemented as of Monday, that is tomorrow. At any rate, I will today meet with Dani Rothschild and we will see if all the measures in this regard are completed. At any rate, if the corridor is not opened tomorrow, it will be opened this week. Also the international crossing points will be transferred to the Palestinian Authority on Sunday, that is one week from now.

[Milhim] Dr. Sha'th, what will the entry procedures be like, on these crossing points?

[Sha'th] Undoubtedly, many things will improve and our people who use these crossing points will see changes. We agreed to reduce the time needed to complete the entry procedures from six hours—the current time needed now—to one hour at maximum for the departure and two hours at maximum for the arrival. There will be Palestinian police, Palestinian immigration officers, Palestinian customs officials, and Palestinian agricultural inspectors and doctors. The entire crossings point will be Palestinian in nature.

[Milhim] How will citizens enter the Palestinian National Authority areas and the West Bank?

[Sha'th] Of course, there will be three channels at the Rafah and the Allenby crossings and also a crossing for Gaza Strip and Jericho residents.

[Milhim] We would like to point out to our listeners that Dr. Nabil is talking by telephone from a car. Dr. Sha'th, please go on.

[Sha'th] There will also be a full Palestinian authority over the crossings, as well as very little Israeli presence under exceptional circumstances such as the discovery of

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a weapon with a passenger. Nobody except Palestinians will be seen in the windows. For West Bank residents, there will be two windows, one used by a Palestinian officer and the other by an Israeli officer. The passenger will go first to the Palestinian officer, who will stamp the passport, and then to the Israeli officer. Similar measures will be taken at the customs channel, and there will be a Palestinian officer and an Israeli officer. The same will also apply to visitors, with just a small difference. The visitor will go first to the Israeli officer and then to the Palestinian officer. However, in addition to maintaining a Palestinian presence at the crossings which will facilitate many matters, we have agreed to double the numbers of the computers and the employees to save time. There will be 100 Palestinian officers and employees at the Allenby and Jericho crossings. We will also supply air conditioners at the crossings for the first time, and the waiting period will be remarkably reduced.

[Milhim] Dr. Sha'th, yesterday the Palestinian National Authority Council of Ministers made several decisions, including one to dispatch a delegation to Amman and another delegation to Cairo. Will you please tell us the topics the Palestinian Council of Ministers discussed?

[Sha'th] The current stage will enable the Palestinian National Authority to acquire many features of a state. The authority will issue a Palestinian passport, a Palestinian identity card, birth and death certificate, and a Palestinian high school certificate. All these issues need recognition. Therefore, it is necessary to dispatch delegations to Jordan and Egypt, where our people's interests interact. We will also dispatch delegations to the Arab League, the United Nations, the donor countries, and the sponsor countries in order to make them recognize the Palestinian passport and the birth and marriage certificates. The delegation to Jordan will discuss these issues, as well as the overall political situation. This delegation will include specialized ministers to discuss all the daily life affairs of which the Palestinian National Authority will take charge. We also want the Arab League to recognize the Palestinian passport in every Arab country. Regarding Egypt, the visit has a political aspect. The close exchange of information between President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and President Husni Mubarak has prompted President Abu-'Ammar to invite President Mubarak in order to discuss with him ways of promoting the peace process by implementing the agreement which we have signed or by speeding up the transfer of authority in the West Bank.

[Milhim] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority, thanks.

[Sha'th] You are welcome, brother.

Views Terrorism, 'Arafat's Standing

TA1408183094 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian "minister of planning and international cooperation," by Hayim Yavin and Ehud Ya'ari, in the studio—live, in English]

[Text] [Yavin] Good evening Mr. Sha'th. We would like first of all to have your reaction on the act of terrorism today at the Kissufim junction in the south.

[Sha'th] We cannot but condemn all these acts of violence that violate the peace process, that violate its spirit and its letter. And when they happen in the Gaza sector our responsibility is to pursue, is to follow all the rules of law and all the rules of security to try to apprehend and to take to justice all of those responsible and to do our best to make preventive action.

[Yavin] But you know, these things go on and on, and they put into question the credibility of the PLO, which is responsible to catching, to stop these acts of terror.

[Sha'th] Well, our responsibility here is unquestioned, but as you have seen and the world has seen, even if you are responsible and you have all the tools that does not mean that you can stop all the actions. You can try to reduce them, you can try to prevent them, in the final analysis I think the solution is political. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't do our best in the security to stop them.

[Ya'ari] Dr. Sha'th, there was a lot of talk early on about the possibility of collecting illegal arms in the Gaza Strip, basically disarming the armed wing of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. What happened to that? No arms were really collected.

[Sha'th] Well, collecting arms is a much more difficult process. You are a nation which allows arms to many people, reserve officers and many others. Collecting arms requires a totally different consensus and a totally different action. I think it should be done with consideration and with the proper political atmosphere.

[Yavin] I would like to ask you about the chairman, Mr. 'Arafat, the last meeting with Rabin and everything that came up during this period; there is a feeling among Israelis that the chairman is losing a lot of credibility.

[Sha'th] Well, I think it's unfair to the chairman. I mean, the chairman has barely been here a few weeks, and he has an immense task of building a new country with new institutions. It's an autonomy, but it requires so much work to do, and I think he has had very little help in doing it, both from Israel and from the donor countries.

[Ya'ari] One of the issues, Dr. Sha'th, on which the chairman was criticized—both by Palestinians and in Israeli public opinion—is the suspension of the publication, of the daily AL-NAHAR in Jerusalem. Do you think it may be solved and this move of closing down basically a newspaper will not be a signal to what's in store for the future?

[Sha'th] I certainly hope it's not. I think the chairman was delivering a political message, not one about freedom of press, but I think the direction was somewhere else. Nevertheless, we all want to see AL-NAHAR be published. I know that yesterday he was meeting with

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Mr. al-Hallaq, the publisher of AL-NAHAR, and he has made the proper request for registration and I think he will republish very soon.

[Yavin] Mr. Sha'th, you visited the holy places in Jerusalem. How do you regard now the relationship between the PLO and the King of Jordan, Husayn?

[Sha'th] Well, I don't think really one ought to relate my visit to the visit of anybody else. And I think it's the comparison that creates the problem. I am here, this is a very important town for me, for my people, both spiritually, mentally, politically, and in every other way, and being able to visit it in peace and under the peaceful relations that exist now fulfills a long life dream. I am sure Jerusalem is also important to every Christian, every Muslim, and every Jew, and to that extent I am sure every Arab leader would want to visit Jerusalem....

[Yavin, interrupting] You have nothing against King Husayn, do you?

[Sha'th] Of course not.

[Ya'ari] Dr. Sha'th, we move to the early empowerment negotiations which are to resume tomorrow at the Erez facility, let's call it like this. What is blocking the road to achieving an early agreement on the transfer of authority in those five civilian spheres now?

[Sha'th] You know, we are late, we are like in football terms we are playing in the lost time, because these early empowerment negotiations should have been conducted at the same time the Gaza and Jericho agreement was negotiated, so the two should have started at the same time. So to that extent we are late. But since we started we did our job really as fast as possible. Dani Rothschild and I and the Palestinian and Israeli teams have worked very hard to achieve a quick solution. The problem we are facing is really a problem of financing, but that should be our problem. That is, our ability to collect taxes and to finance any shortfall should be our problem and we are quite ready to face it and succeed, I am sure.

[Ya'ari] Can you do it by the end of this month?

[Sha'th] Absolutely, I think we should, as soon as possible.

[Yavin] What about the taxes, really, just to finish on a happy note. You are a little slow on ordering all the money collecting and all the apparatus to receive the aid from the West? You are complaining, but you are doing nothing really.

[Sha'th] No, taxes are a very hard thing, and I would like to ask every Israeli viewer whether he likes to pay taxes or not. I am sure nobody likes to pay taxes. And you know, when you move from the state of occupation to a new state, a new situation, people hate to be harassed, to pay taxes as quickly as we want them to. But I must say we are making progress, and the salaries paid this month to both the police and the civilians was paid out of taxes, not out of donor support. Donor support was very late in coming and still is trickling almost eye-drop by eye-drop, so I am sure we will catch up on our taxes, and I am sure eventually the donors and ourselves will find the common language to speed up the process.

[Yavin] I would like to thank you for coming to the studio, Mr. Nabil Sha'th.

Meets With Peres on Early Empowerment

TA1508084394 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Excerpts] For the first time, a PLO official met openly last night at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem.

PLO chief negotiator Nabil Sha'th met with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres for about two and a half hours to discuss a variety of unresolved issues that are likely to be discussed at their meeting in Egypt on Wednesday.

Among the issues aired last night were the transfer of civilian authority throughout the territories known as "early empowerment"; international donor funding for the Palestinian Authority; Palestinian elections; and left over issues from the May 4 agreement such as deploying a Palestinian policeman on the Allenby Bridge.

After the meeting, a spokeswoman for Peres denied that the foreign minister had dropped Israel's earlier objection to deploying a Palestinian policeman on the bridge, which the Palestinians have sought as a symbol of sovereignty.

After the meeting ended at about eleven p.m., Sha'th spoke to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. He subsequently conveyed to Peres 'Arafat's condemnation of yesterday's attacks and pledged that the Palestinian police would track down the killers, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Meanwhile, senior World Bank official Prem Garg said in a private interview yesterday that he expected that a final agreement would be reached within the next "four to six weeks" with the Palestinian Authority in establishing $128 million worth of infrastructure projects in Gaza and Jericho, thereby ending the logjam on this issue.

Sources say Peres and Sha'th discussed taxation, the one unresolved issue in negotiations on the transfer of civilian authority throughout the territories. "Except for taxation, all the rest of the issues are resolved," a Foreign Ministry official involved in the negotiations said before last night's meeting.

Peres and Sha'th are to meet in Alexandria on Wednesday at the summer home of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. Peres will also meet with the Egyptian leader, who has played a key role in Israel Palestinian negotiations.

Peres was joined at the meeting last night by Coordinator of Activities Major General Dani Rothschild and Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir. Sources hinted

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that Sha'th has met secretly with Peres in Jerusalem before, but this marks the first time that the two are known to be meeting at a government facility in the city. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, in a private interview in Jerusalem yesterday Washington-based World bank coordinator for Palestinian affairs Garg said, "Our expectation is that within the next four to six weeks we can see the beginning of development activities."

He said the one sticking point is who will be the managing consultant who would oversee the $128 million worth of rehabilitation of existing infrastructure in areas such as roads, electric power, water and sewage.

Garg said the Palestinian Authority has already agreed to the "terms of reference" or job definition of the managing consultant, suggesting that 'Arafat was not blocking the scope of the consultant's powers.

At the same time, he said the Palestinians needed to name a consultant with international experience capable of supervising projects of such magnitude, who is acceptable to the World Bank, and this has not happened yet.

When asked for reaction yesterday, Palestinian Authority finance chief Ahmad Quray' (Abu-'Ala') said, "We hope to put tenders in the newspapers over the next two days" in a search for people to undertake the infrastructure projects.

Al-Agha on Israeli Talks, Sha'th Jerusalem Visit

NC1408082694 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Palestinian National Authority member Dr. Zakariya al-Agha in the Gaza Strip, by Ramadan Husayn in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Husayn] We welcome you to the Voice of the Arabs and bid you good morning, Mr. al-Agha.

[Al-Agha] Good morning to you.

[Husayn] Talks on expanding the scope of Palestinian autonomy to include the rest of the occupied West Bank territories will resume on Monday and Tuesday [15 and 16 August]. Could you fill us in on what progress has been made regarding these issues?

[Al-Agha] Actually, the transfer of authority to the Palestinians should have taken place as soon as the Palestinian National Authority took over management of the Gaza Strip and Jericho, according to the Declaration of Principles. However, this matter was delayed for many reasons, most of which can be traced back to the Israeli side. Negotiations started last month on this matter. There has been some progress, but not as much as needed. During their meeting here in Gaza last Wednesday President Yasir 'Arafat and Rabin agreed to finalize negotiations on the transfer of power in the West Bank on Monday and Tuesday. If there are any problems requiring intervention at a higher level, agreement was reached that the Higher Coordination Committee—which is chaired on our side by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, and on the Israeli side by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres—would meet on Wednesday. If that committee is not able to make a final decision on the pending matters, President Yasir 'Arafat and Prime Minister Rabin will meet the following week.

[Husayn] What are the five sectors for which you are working to have powers transferred to you?

[Al-Agha] According to the agreement, there are at least five sectors, and possibilities for other sectors, too. The five sectors are health, education, social affairs, tourism, and taxation—both direct and value added tax.

[Husayn] What about the other sectors?

[Al-Agha] According to the agreement, a gradual move will be made in these sectors, which will be accompanied by gradual a withdrawal or redeployment of the Israeli forces outside the villages and towns and the deployment of the Palestinian forces in these towns. Thus, deployment will take place in three months, and according to the agreement, elections will start three months after that—after the Israeli forces pull out and the Palestinian forces deploy in the towns and villages. After the election of the council that will represent the West Bank and the Gaza Strip—there will be general elections in these two areas—all powers in the West Bank, which are similar to the powers handed over to the Palestinian authorities in the Gaza Strip, will have been handed over to these authorities and transferred to the Palestinian side.

[Husayn] What about elections in the Palestinian autonomy area?

[Al-Agha] This is something we are very careful about. The Palestinian authorities believe it has top priority. Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] always brings up this matter. He raised it during the last meeting with Rabin, and with Christopher during the tripartite meeting in Cairo. We constantly concentrate on this matter and want elections to take place as quickly as possible. However, as you know, for us to hold elections the Israeli forces in the West Bank have to be redeployed and the Palestinian forces should be deployed, because elections should take place under Palestinian control in these areas. As soon as the Israeli forces are redeployed and the Palestinian forces complete their deployment, we will be ready to hold these elections.

[Husayn] Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, member of the Palestinian National Authority, in our discussion with you over the telephone lines between Cairo and the Gaza Strip, there is another detail I believe is important. Dr. Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian minister of planning and international cooperation, has visited occupied Jerusalem. What is your impression of this visit?

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[Al-Agha] First, Jerusalem is occupied Palestinian territory. The holy places also fall within these occupied territories. It is the right of any Palestinian to visit or reside in Jerusalem. Of course, brother Nabil Sha'th is perhaps the first Palestinian official to officially and publicly visit Jerusalem. We hope this visit will affirm our Palestinian right to Jerusalem—land and holy places.

[Husayn] Dr. al-Agha, the PLO sent a message to the United Nations, asking it to keep the international observers in Hebron. Could you tell us the reasons and circumstances for this request?

[Al-Agha] Actually, when the decision was taken to send international observers to Hebron, there were clear reasons for this decision. After the Hebron massacre and after the Palestinian citizens lost their security in this area, the decision was taken to send observers to supervise the situation and record their observations, which they would then present to the United Nations and the concerned sides. We believe that the circumstances and reasons for which the observers were sent have not ended. There still is an Israeli presence in Hebron. The threats to our people in Hebron, particularly inside the city, continue. The situation inside Hebron is really bad. Merchants cannot open their stores. The citizens cannot move freely. The al-Ibrahimi mosque is still closed. Therefore, the reasons for observers are still needed, and that is why the PLO asked that the observers' term be extended.

[Husayn] To end this dialogue, we thank Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, member of the Palestinian National Authority, here with us on the phone line between Cairo and the Gaza Strip.

[Al-Agha] Thank you, and good morning to you. I salute all the brothers working in the Voice of the Arabs.

'Arafat on Return to 'Palestine,' Reconstruction

OW1208143094 Tokyo AERA in Japanese 15-22 Aug 94 pp 26-27

[Interview with Yasir 'Arafat by correspondent Itsuko Hirata at the Palestine Hotel in Gaza on 19 July]

[Text] [Hirata] How do you feel about being back home?

['Arafat] I am mulling over how I can best express my deep emotion over being able to come back to my country.

The people of Palestine had been robbed of their country and their rights as human beings. We had to live as refugees in a cruel hell of hunger, massacres, and persecution for over half a century. It is all because of Allah that we have come to have the chance to share the pleasure of seeing our brothers and sisters in our home country.

[Hirata] Nevertheless, Gaza is in a neglected condition.

['Arafat] Indeed, they have ruined our land to such an extent. But, we must overcome every difficulty and obstacle and construct a basic social infrastructure including gas, water supplies, electricity, housing, and so on, and rebuild the economy.

Beginning 1 August, we will building our Gaza port with the cooperation of the Netherlands, France, and Italy. We do not want Israel and Egypt to take a "margin" [cut] or to interfere.

[Hirata] What are the prospects for elections? Israel says that it will switch to a local autonomy election if the Palestine provisional autonomous government loses in the general election.

['Arafat] Of course, we ourselves will hold a general election for the people of Palestine, and I guarantee you that it will be a successful one. To the Palestinian brothers who have long endured and fought, I have a great responsibility as PLO chairman and leader of the Palestine provisional autonomous government. We can never, ever hand over the rights of our people to Israel.

[Hirata] There are organizations which oppose the peace talks.

['Arafat] If they oppose them, then they should participate in the provisional autonomous government and make their case. We honor democracy.

This is not the time for disunity. It is absolutely outrageous to waste the first and last chance given to us. Do they want to destroy the future for the children of our homeland, Palestine?

It is not possible to win perfect and complete independence from the start. Our enemy is Israel. It is not the Palestinians. Moreover, they are the strongest ones in the world. The road to Jerusalem is long. But unless we take the first step, we will never be able to arrive there.

[Hirata] Jerusalem Mayor 'Ehud Olmert invited the king of Jordan to the holy land of Jerusalem.

['Arafat] He has no such authority. We Palestinians are the only ones who can invite the king to Jerusalem. I will formally invite the king of Jordan to the holy land. I will accompany him when he enters the holy territory of Jerusalem.

[Hirata] It seems that the policy of Israeli settlers being brought in is continuing.

['Arafat] On 15 July, I sent a message to the Palestinians in Jerusalem appealing to them not to sell land to Israelis. If they need money, they should just say "Abu 'Amar" ('Arafat's nom de guerre). Abu 'Amar will buy it. We should not let the Israeli Government requisition land. The Palestinians and the Palestinian autonomous government will protect Palestinian land.

Now is the time for all the Palestinian people to unite. The Palestinian people, united as one, must rebuild our home country on land, under the sky, by the sea, and on the hills of Palestine.

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Modification to Palestinian Charter Ruled Out

LD1208222794 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] A high-ranking Palestinian official ruled out any modification to the Palestinian charter before the organization of elections and Israel's withdrawal from the rest of the West Bank.

Islamic Jihad Leader Views Movement's Policy

JN1408183994 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Aug 94 p 5

[Interview with Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, leader of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Movement, by Muhammad 'Allam in Gaza; date not given]

[Text] ['Allam] What is the reason behind the apparent current problems and lack of coordination between the Jihad Movement and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]?

[Al-Shami] Coordination on some political activities was recently held with Hamas. Coordination, however, does not often take place. Hamas takes separate positions that weaken the position of the Islamic and national opposition forces. There are many reasons for the lack of coordination, including arrogance, a feeling that there is no need for others, and the lack of desire to take positions which may in the future be in favor of the parties with which Hamas feels there are differences over politics or approaches. The dominating reason, however, is political arrogance.

['Allam] Do you consider Jewish civilians part of your battle with Israel? Can you explain the Jihad Movement's position on the incident in Argentina in clearer phrases?

[Al-Shami] We have a humanitarian stand alongside all humans against any hostile action targeting civilians. Our decision is to confront the enemy on the battlefield. We do not rule out that the Mosad was behind this and other incidents in order to support Rabin's position in the fierce war he launched against the Islamic movements, and also to pressure the Jewish communities in Latin America into emigrating to Israel. We do not find any justification to kill civilians. This, however, does not prevent civilians from falling victims to war although they are not the real objective of war. As this incident was directed against civilians, I do not support it.

['Allam] But you called for striking at Israeli and U.S. interests?

[Al-Shami] The conflict between the Jihad Movement and Israel is open in al areas, including Gaza, the West Bank, 'Akko and Yafo. Occupation is a legitimate justification for resistance. We do not have areas, including the self-rule area, where resistance to occupation is banned.

['Allam] What does the Jordanian supervision of the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem, according to the recent Washington Declaration, represent for the Jihad Movement?

[Al-Shami] As Jerusalem represents a serious challenge to the Palestinian people, Rabin wanted to circumvent us by granting religious sovereignty to King Husayn in order to keep the political sovereignty in favor of the occupation. King Husayn does not want political authority in Jerusalem, nor can he obtain it. Rabin dealt a strong blow to 'Arafat and put out bait for King Husayn, so the king will proceed with the political settlement and open the Elat-al-'Aqabah crossing.

['Allam] You took positions which do not refer to full Palestinian sovereignty over Jerusalem?

[Al-Shami] Yes, Jerusalem is greater than being confined to a Palestinian or Jordanian framework. From the Jihad Movement's viewpoint, Jerusalem is the real antagonist of the State of Israel. Anyone who recognizes the State of Israel is not entitled to talk about Jerusalem, which is Palestinian territory. We, however, do not take into account these limited boundaries.

['Allam] How do you assess the performance of the Palestinian National Authority?

[Al-Shami] On the political, economic, and social level, there has been no change in the people's life. Poverty, Israeli occupation (the settlements), and the travel permits issued by the occupation authorities still exist. Even 'Arafat's language is now different from that which he had when he arrived more than one month ago. He expresses disappointment and talks about deteriorating conditions. This is the natural result of the agreement with the Israelis.

['Allam] What alternative do you have to the Palestinian-Israeli agreement?

[Al-Shami] The real alternative is to keep the conflict with the occupation authorities open. If we are weak today, this will not continue indefinitely and the balance of power will tilt in our favor.

['Allam] You refer in statements to the "religious tendency of the Palestinian National Authority." Does this constitute an obstacle to coexistence with the agreement?

[Al-Shami] The National Authority cannot change its nature; that is, the secular tendency and playing on the ropes of the policies of the official Arab regimes. Therefore, what can one expect this authority to adopt when it submits to the U.S. regime. The authority will announce an alien regime (a secular one) in order to win the West's sympathy. They think that by doing so, they can obtain funds, which can only be attained if they throw themselves into the Israeli era.

['Allam] What do you think of the decision to ban the Jerusalem-based AL-NAHAR from circulating in the self-rule areas?

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[Al-Shami] This decision reflects the spirit of hegemony, individualism, and tutelage which characterizes the authority's decisions. We say this despite the fact that we disagree with the majority of AL-NAHAR'S political views.

['Allam] Do you not think that this stage requires giving support to the Palestinian negotiator, at least to improve the conditions?

[Al-Shami] Our goal is not to support or weaken the negotiator. Everything these negotiations yield is feeble, as we can see. But our role is to continue the military jihad against occupation. The Palestinian negotiator can take advantage of these operations if he is smart.

Al-Husayni Criticizes Decision To Close Newspaper

TA1408095894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Faysal al-Husayni criticized the Interior Ministry's decision to close the Al-BAYAN newspaper, published in East Jerusalem, on the grounds that it is linked to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Al-Husayni told our correspondent that if the newspaper has violated the terms of its license, legal or administrative action should be taken against it, but it should not be closed.

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Algeria

Transitional National Council Considers Program

Sifi Replies to Questions

LD1308200594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Excerpts] The head of government answered questions put to him by Transitional National Council [TNC] members on the government program for the transitional period. Our colleague Aicha Dagha filed the following report on the main points raised in the head of government's reply:

[Begin recording] [Dagha] The head of government's reply, which lasted nearly 90 minutes, answered the questions raised and the criticism made by the TNC's members when they examined the government's program for the transitional period.

Mr. Mokdad Sifi said at the beginning of his reply that most of the comments, which he heard, were very responsible and very analytical, particularly on the means for resolving the crisis facing the country.

In his reply to the criticism made on the economic aspect, particularly on the agreements with the IMF, Mr. Mokdad Sifi said his government prefers consultation and everyone's involvement in important economic decisions.

He announced, furthermore, that a meeting to explain the stand-by agreement will be held soon with the participation of the minister of finance and the governor of the Central Bank, who will answer all queries on the agreement.

Replying to a question on the meaning of economic restructuring and whether the latter means privatization or not, the head of government affirmed the term did not mean privatization. Rather, it meant a profound economic transformation and restructuring which would bolster non-oil exports and the gradual implementation of the new organizational measures in a number of vital sectors. [passage omitted]

In the course of his talk about the administration, he announced he was working towards restoring respect to the municipalities' role in improving their services, and considered them the base in which democracy was being exercised in its true spirit.

Concerning the queries raised by the members in their interventions in connection with the status of the special judicial courts, Mokdad Sifi pointed out that they were set up to keep in line with an exceptional situation. They specialized in cases of terrorism and all defense rights in them were guaranteed.

In the course of his reply about the problems of supplying the market and the high cost of living, he said that the scarcity of some commodities was attributed to objective factors connected with external reasons, but that measures had been adopted to improve this phenomenon and supply the market with the essential commodities. He talked here about the role Algerian businessmen, particularly the emigres, could play in developing the Algerian market and supplying it with the essential commodities. [passage omitted]

He concluded by touching on the communication sector, against which numerous criticisms were levelled. He said he would be keen on encouraging the press, in general, and achieve an objective, credible media by enabling journalists to practise the profession with freedom.

He also said that the radio and television programs would be shortly broadcast via satellites to enable our citizens abroad to follow up on the national programs, a matter which would allow for bringing the Algerian community abroad closer to the national events taking place. [end recording]

Council Adopts Program

LD1308164894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] A short while ago, members of the Transitional National Council adopted the program of Mr. Mokdad Sifi's government with a majority; 115 voted for and 11 were against, with eight abstentions.

Sifi Speaks After Vote

LD1308193294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Address by Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi to the TNC following the passage of the government program in Algiers on 13 August—recorded; first paragraph is announcer's introduction]

[Excerpts] This afternoon the Transitional National Council [TNC] adopted the program of Mokdad Sifi's government by an absolute majority vote after amendments were introduced to the original text; for example: changing the expression, managing the security question, to tackling the security question. [passage omitted] After the adoption of the government program, the prime minister intervened and delivered a speech:

[Sifi] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Prayers and peace be upon the most honorable of missionaries. Mr. Chairman, honorable ladies and gentlemen, members of the National Council; members of the government; gentlemen, ladies; for the second time, peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you. While listening to your addresses, ladies and gentlemen of this venerable council, during these days that were rich with the exchange of various views, I found myself thinking about the families of all those who have fallen victim to violence and terrorism in the last years, and I was wondering about the reactions of these families while they were listening to us, and what they would say

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if invited to speak. I think that I am correct to believe that they would convey the following message: Do anything to stop the bloodshed; do anything for Algeria to make it the Algeria of peace and hope again. [applause]

These words are dictated to me by my conscience as an Algerian. They are not words emanating from any political conception. My conscience urges me before anything else to answer this appeal. The answer can be no other than the one chosen by the government and submitted to you, namely: First, to hold dialogue with all those who denounce violence and terrorism [applause] and seek good for the country; second, stability of our national economy to preserve our purchasing power and the sovereignty of our independent people; third, to revive our trade and our public and private investments to encourage growth and development; and fourth, to stand firm and steadfast in the face of all those who want to enslave us and enslave our children so as to be eligible for the heritage of November. [applause]

As 'Umar Bin-al-Khattab asked: Since when can you enslave the people while they were born free?

This is also the message of our Amazigh ancestors.

Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you very much for allowing me to express my feelings.

In conclusion I would like to point out that we have already begun to act and ask the people to help us and beseech God, the almighty, to bless this beloved homeland.

Long live Algeria and peace and God's blessing on you.

Opposition Parties Decline Invitation to Talks

NC1508065294 Paris AFP in English 2131 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] Algiers, Aug 14 (AFP)—Two Algerian opposition parties snubbed Sunday an offer from President Liamine Zeroual to hold negotiations on the country's return to democracy.

The Assembly for Culture and Democracy declined Zeroual's invitation issued last week to hold a "national dialogue" with all eight legal opposition parties.

Another invited opposition party, the Ettahaddi Movement, also announced it would not participate in the August 21 talks.

"The dialogue held for two years by the predecessors of Mr. Zeroual have produced nothing," said the Secretary General of the Assembly, Sayyid Sa'di, in a letter addressed to the president. A copy was made available to AFP.

"The dialogue is a way to do nothing while the enemies of the republic act," the letter said.

In inviting the eight parties to take part in the talks, Zeroual pledged a swift return to democracy and multiparty elections if they participated.

Thousands of Algerians and more than 50 foreigners have died in a fundamentalist insurgency launched after the military cancelled the second round of voting in January 1992 elections which the since banned fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win. FIS was not invited to the talks.

Egypt

Mubarak Discusses Foreign, Domestic Issues

NC1408160094 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] President Husni Mubarak met with university students attending the Abu-Bakr al-Siddiq Summer Camp at Alexandria's Conference Center this morning. Several ministers also attended the meeting.

President Mubarak conducted an open dialogue with the students over major domestic and foreign issues.

Following the two-and-one-half-hour meeting, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated that the president told the students they were the country's future resources and that all current Egyptian efforts in the areas of construction, progress, and economic development are for the good of young people and future generations.

The president added that national efforts on the domestic and foreign scenes are two sides of the same coin and that Egypt cannot isolate itself, focus only on domestic issues, and disregard what is happening in the outside world. He explained that progress is not possible without a broad understanding of what is happening on the international scene. He said this understanding influences internal events and domestic policy.

President Mubarak continued: We are an influential nation, and in dealing with existing challenges we must take our international relations into account.

He noted that the population increase is perhaps the country's greatest challenge.

President Mubarak conducted a democratic debate with the university students and professors. In response to a question on the economic reform program, he explained that such a step was necessary to preserve the Egyptian quality of life for the good of future generations.

The president noted that the Egyptian economy reached a very crucial point in 1990 when it was very difficult to find sufficient foreign currency to import wheat to make the bread the public eats. He said Egypt was unable in those days to pay the interest on its foreign debt and was thus in a very critical situation on the international scene.

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He explained that the causes of the crisis were clear, including low oil prices, low production levels as a result of old factory machinery, and reduced remittances from Egyptians working abroad. He said if the country had not adopted a carefully planned economic reform program, circumstances in the country would now be much more difficult.

Al-Sharif added that Mubarak also commented on the issue of lowering the Egyptian pound's exchange rate opposite the U.S. dollar. He said this issue is no longer under discussion.

President Mubarak asserted that Egyptian and foreign investors enjoy equal tax exemptions.

Regarding the UN International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], President Mubarak explained that Egypt's choice as the venue for this international meeting demonstrates its stability and international influence. He pointed out that no international conference can dictate any course of action to any country and that Egypt is committed to heavenly laws and Islam. He declared that Egypt will not accept any recommendations that contradict its religion.

Concerning the national dialogue conference, Mubarak said that the National Dialogue Congress issued a number of recommendations that are now under examination. He said that the ultimate goal is to serve the national interests.

Safwat al-Sharif said that President Mubarak also discussed the terrorism phenomenon. The president told the students that Egypt is capable of fighting all forms of terror and that the nation is capable of deflecting the threat of extremist thinking. The people will be able to confront intellectual terrorism in just the same way as they confronted bloody terrorism in the past.

President Mubarak praised the efforts of the youths in fighting illiteracy in various governorates.

As for Egyptian-Sudanese ties, Mubarak expressed astonishment at the provocations of the Sudanese Government, saying that these provocations are at odds with Arab principles. Egypt has not and will not interfere in Sudan's affairs, nor does it need to do so. This is not Egypt's style, Mubarak stated. Domestic affairs are the concern of the Sudanese people, not ours. The Sudanese people are more durable than the regime. Egypt will never strike at Sudan. Egypt wants Sudan to be a unified and stable country. Egypt will remain a stable country and Sudanese actions will not affect it, Mubarak declared.

Concerning the Palestinian issue, Mubarak said that Egypt supports and will continue to support the Palestinian people. He added that there is progress on the Palestinian and Jordanian tracks. Egypt is holding consultations geared to generate progress on the Syrian track as well. There are signs of flexibility in this area, Mubarak said. The president expressed his hope that the lack of confidence between the two sides will be overcome.

Concerning Jerusalem, President Mubarak said that this issue is subject to negotiations at the last stage of talks because it should be discussed in an atmosphere of objectivity. The president expressed hope that substantial progress will be achieved before the end of this year.

Concerning Arab relations, the outcome of the visit to Egypt by United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, and that of President Mubarak's visit to Saudi Arabia, the president explained the importance of good ties between Egypt and Arab countries.

Responding to a question on Egyptian-Libyan relations, President Mubarak said that these relations are very good. He added that Egypt is exerting its utmost efforts to resolve the Lockerbie crisis.

Concerning the situation in Africa, President Mubarak said that circumstances in African countries are totally different from those in the West. Western democracy, he added, cannot be applied in African countries using the same standards adopted in Western countries. The president said that the OAU is not currently capable of financing the peacekeeping forces needed to contain current African disputes. Egypt has good relations with African countries and is making every possible effort to resolve African disputes, he declared.

Syria's Al-Shar' Briefs Mubarak on Christopher Visit

NC1408102994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] Alexandria, 14 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a message today from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on Arab developments and the peace process. The message was given him when he received Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

After the meeting, al-Shar' stated that he and President Mubarak discussed various issues of interest to the two sisterly countries, Syria and Egypt. They agreed to continue their contacts to bolster bilateral relations in various fields.

Al-Shar' said: I briefed President Mubarak on the results of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region, particularly his visit to Damascus and the ideas he proposed to the Syrian side.

He added that he had presented the Syrian viewpoint of how to push the peace process forward.

The Syrian foreign minister said in his statement: So far, we cannot talk about an Israeli commitment to a full withdrawal. But at the same time, as we told Christopher, there is a serious attempt to follow up the peace

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process and give it the momentum to realize its objective. This objective includes all the elements of peace, foremost of which is full withdrawal in compliance with Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and takes into account the parallel nature of the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

Al-Shar' affirmed that the Syrian side senses that the U.S. side understood the situation well. He added that the U.S. is playing the role of mediator, and is proceeding according to the bases of the peace process—implementation of the Security Council resolutions and the principle of land for peace.

Faruq al-Shar' said that so far there has been no detailed discussion of the elements and requirements for peace, but some ideas have been presented. Some of these elements and requirements might present specific issues for discussion during the U.S. secretary of state's next tour of the region before mid-September.

Regarding reports that the United States has proposed a two-year withdrawal from the Golan Heights as a compromise between the Israeli proposal to withdraw in four years and the Syrian proposal that Israel withdraw within one year, the minister said that these are only media reports. The truth of the matter is that Syria is talking about rapid withdrawal within months while the Israelis talk about withdrawal over a period of years.

He said that Syria's demands are public and its principles are well-known: full withdrawal in return for full peace.

Musa Supports Syrian Stance

NC1408111194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] Alexandria, 14 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Egypt is always prepared to support and back Syria's stanceX which is just and very reasonable regarding the restoration of the Golan and readiness to establish relations of peace. No one casts doubt on this stance.

In a statement issued today, Musa says that within this context Egypt is prepared to do what is asked of it. However, Egypt is confident that the brothers in Syria are able to run the negotiating process very efficiently.

Mubarak, 'Arafat Discuss Developments Over Phone

NC1508045894 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] President Husni Mubarak telephoned Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in his residence in Gaza. They discussed the developments of the peace process in general and the Palestinian-Israeli contacts in particular.

Cairo Requests Release of Citizen Detained in Sudan

NC1208173994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1723 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Aug (MENA)—Egyptian Charge d'Affaires in Khartoum Ramadan al-Sharif has asked the Sudanese ajthorities to immediately release Faruq al-Alfi, personnel director of the Egyptian Irrigation Mission in Sudan, who was arrested last Saturday.

The Egyptian diplomat has sent a new memorandum to the Sudanese Foreign Ministry asking that he be allowed to visit the Egyptian citizen in prison in accordance with diplomatic norms.

Ramadan al-Sharif met in the past few days with a large number of Sudanese officials led by Minister of State Dr. Mustafa 'Uthman Isma'il to urge them to release al-Alfi.

Sudan's authorities arrested the Egyptian citizen and tried him on false changes. He was sentenced to nine months in prison and a 30,000 Sudanese pound fine.

NPUG Calls For Action To Lift Iraq Embargo

NC1308161994 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 10 Aug 94 p 1

[Text] The National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party [NPUG] has called for Egyptian and Arab action to support the Iraqi people and end the blockade that the U.S. Administration insists on imposing on the world, thus aggravating the food and medicine situation.

At a meeting held last Wednesday, NPUG's Central Secretariat decided to call an urgent meeting of the leftist alliance leaders to develop a joint program for this support, including a rally and a meeting with the Arab League secretary general to discuss the possibility of submitting his old plan for Arab reconciliation for discussion once again and intensifying his efforts.

The Central Secretariat also decided to address appeals to international organizations to urge them to support the Iraqi people and put pressure on the UN Security Council to lift the embargo on Iraq. It also decided to coordinate efforts with Arab political powers and popular bodies to create a public opinion that would press for restoring Arab solidarity.

Writer Examines U.S. Ties With 'Extremists'

NC1308155594 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 9 Aug 94 pp 1, 3

[Article by chief editor Jalal Duwaydar: "Who Are the Agents and Who Really Deserves To Be Called Clients?"]

[Text] It was natural for Western, particularly French, media to give special attention to French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua's sharp criticism of the contradictory U.S. behavior toward extremism and terrorism.

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French newspapers denounced all Western countries that open their doors to some leading extremists who do not deny their involvement in murder and sabotage in their countries of origin.

As I said in an article two days ago, many countries who have good ties with Washington find the U.S. attitude toward terrorist extremists who hide their political agendas behind religious slogans very perplexing.

Nor is it strange that the unnatural U.S. dealings with the symbols of terror and extremism should occur under the cover of democracy and human rights. Actually, these dealings are no more than political "business" [preceding word in English] that implies blackmail of countries and hints at a desire to dominate them, intervene in their internal affairs, and undermine their positions. Of course the Americans are doing this to further their own interests. This makes us ask: How many crimes are committed in this world in the name of "democracy" and fine-sounding principles dubbed "human rights?"

They have no objection to the establishment of societies that will help to implement this policy and whose task is to write out suspect reports designed to slander certain countries. These societies are never innocent of the charge that they work for certain security agencies in return for financial support.

Notably, one illegal Egyptian group, whose main activity is to exploit Islam to serve its political agenda, has become a permanent client of some of these societies, including one called "The Middle East Watch." The Egyptian group's relationship with this society has developed to the point where some of the leaders of the Egyptian group meet to "cook up" false and misleading reports criticizing and slandering Egypt. The reports are then handed out to the foreign media.

Naturally, this relationship can only have been forged with the help of certain U.S. agencies, whose representatives contact and hold open and secret meetings with the leaders of the illegal Egyptian group. They exchange views and information. When we say this we are not being unfair but merely copying facts published and commented on by U.S. newspapers and other media.

It is sensational that this group's leaders, and other groups operating under its cloak, continue to accuse the government's departments of having a client relationship with the United States, although these government departments in fact operate in open daylight in the context of normal international ties.

It is certain that the members of this illegal group pretend to forget that history repeats itself or that they have always had ties with U.S. agencies. They see no harm in accusing others of being U.S. agents to cover up their own U.S. links. They see no harm either in occasionally criticizing U.S. policies to give false credibility to their positions. We ask: Who are the agents and who really deserves to be called clients?

Despite all they have gone through, the political ambitions and aspirations of this group have not ceased to exist. It uses all means possible to realize its goal of eventually reaching the ruling seat by pursuing unlawful actions that use religion. This means that it is totally incapable of drawing lessons from its bitter experience. That is why it has repeatedly clashed with the legitimate ruling apparatuses.

This happened twice after the [23 July 1952] revolution, in 1954 and 1964. On each occasion, some 50,000 members of the illegal Muslim Brotherhood were arrested, although a large number of these had no direct connection to the group at the time. These numbers are not exaggerated. Talking in one of his speeches about the Muslim Brothers conspiracy, Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir affirmed that the security agencies "caught" 30,000 members within hours. I only recall these events to remind people. This does not mean that I approve of the excesses and the crimes of torture, which I reject completely.

No one disputes that the things the old guard of these groups went through in jail are still the main reasons underlying their efforts to settle accounts in spite of the change that has come over political life and that has transformed the political system from totalitarianism to a pluralism that works under a real umbrella of freedom and democracy.

The new strategy this group adopts in settling counts and realizing old goals revolves around three main axes. The first axis is to penetrate political life through some parties and try to find a medium through which they can propagate their suspicious political concepts wrapped in exalted religious values. They deliberately ignore the fact that the Egyptian people are among the greatest Muslim people, that they are the most committed to Islamic values and principles, and that Islam knows no clergy or intercession between the Almighty and his Muslim worshiper. These people believe in the holy Koran's principle of using good counselling and peaceful approaches in promoting the call for the truthful religion.

The second axis has to do with finance. This has numerous sources, some are in the states that want to annul Egypt's pioneering Islamic and political role. Other sources are represented in immigrant billionaires or the group members who fled Egypt or left it after being released and took refuge in some states that opened their treasuries to them and later turned them into businessmen.

The third is the most dangerous axis, since it is based on scheming against Egypt's security and stability by striking against its domestic equilibrium and denying it and its people the joy of reaping the fruits of reform and economic progress. I cannot say that all Muslim Brotherhood leaders are aware of that scheme. But the natural analysis of events and the establishment of links between these axes affirm that a secret organization associated with foreign powers undertakes this task, with or without

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the knowledge of all. It is certain that the members of this organization are themselves the focal point of the secret contacts that were held with representatives of American apparatuses and announced by U.S. media.

It is this same U.S. approach to terrorist, extremist groups in Algeria that prompted the French minister of interior to publicly attack the policy of the United States and other Western states.

This American contradiction in dealing with extremism and terrorism and those who represent them is indeed puzzling. But life revolves around interests, even if political idiocy and misinformation about the nature of people are among the basic reasons for action in that connection.

Article Examines Population Conference Values, Aims

NC0608105594 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 2 Aug 94 p 9

[Article by Fahmi Huwaydi; from the "Issues and Opinions" section: "Notes on the Population Conference"]

[Text] We have several observations to make on the UN International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] scheduled to be held in Cairo next month. Some of these observations deal with the conference's ideological and philosophical background, others focus on the stance it adopts and the program it presents. These aspects have not been adequately addressed because in the past few months attention has been directed at the moral and religious aspects of the conference. Although these aspects are indisputably important, I maintain that the conference's background and philosophy are at least as much, if not more, important because they contain the seeds of the views that have determined all subsequent details.

There has been a lot of furor abroad—primarily led by the Catholic Church—about the conference's position on such issues as abortion, morality, and the family. No one, however, has paid attention to the fact that this position is the product of a mode of thought and a life philosophy that deals with issues from a totally different perspective than the angry believers and critics. Some in the latter group are in the Vatican and have described the conference as a step toward "biological colonialism." Others organized a conference on "the family" in Peru last month as a foil against the Cairo conference. According to the 27 July issue of the daily EL HERALDO [publication not further identified], they are collecting a million signatures in Mexico to protest against the conference.

After perusing the conference's intellectual program, consisting of a 120-page basic document and the discussions of its preparatory committees in New York in April, we raise the following questions and make the following observations:

Family Before Commodity

First, why is a single view of population and development imposed on the world?

We are not disputing the assessment this view makes, nor are we saying if it is positive or negative. We are merely asking the reason why this view was put in one mold and dealt with from one perspective. Some will immediately respond by saying that population and development are no longer local issues but have become global because the assumed population explosion in the Third World affects the environment, causes poverty, and compels governments to beg from rich nations and international organizations. Furthermore, they say, the increase in the Third World's population is a burden on Western countries, which feel the pressure of new immigrants and so on.

We might understand that such problems have become global and do not dispute their importance in this respect. We merely question why only one view of diagnosing and solving them should prevail and how necessary and useful this view is.

I am not talking about the importance of these problems but about the proposals made to solve them, taking into account the world's different cultures, civilizations, and religions. We become more perplexed when we find the "pluralism" slogan strongly advocated in the West and regarded as a lofty principle that we are invited to adopt and in which we are periodically given lessons. However, Western advocates of pluralism cling to it on the levels of their own nations only. When it comes to presenting a cultural model, this slogan is crushed to make room for a unilateral view confined to the Western cultural model. This is resented by Third World people, who believe that their special characteristics cannot be honored or respected except in a system of cultural pluralism.

We will give an example inspired by the population conference to clarify this idea. One of the axioms the conference adopts is that only a small family can be a happy family. This view is based on the prevailing Western concept that regards "affluence" as the goal of development and maintains that pleasure and comfort are humanity's aims. To attain these goals, the family must remain small to provide its members with affluence, comfort, and pleasure. But other concepts exist in societies with a different culture. Such societies do not attach as much importance to affluence and pleasure as the West does. Islamic culture, for example, recognizes such values as "contentment" and "selflessness" and regards a human being as a creature with a mission placed by God on earth to build it up and spread goodness and virtue. In a society with such values, some people find happiness in a family of any size, not in commodities because contentment is the overriding value rather than personal comfort and pleasure.

The desire of the major powers, notably the United States, to formulate unified world views on various

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international issues raises a question about the true connection between this attitude and the arrangement of the "new world order" as well as the tendency to formulate what some people have called "the new world constitution."

What makes this question more insistent is that the major powers that influence the United Nations have attempted, since the USSR's collapse, to draw up such a constitution by organizing major international conferences designed to formulate rules governing human behavior in various spheres. The environment conference held in Rio de Janiero in 1992 was the first in the series, followed by the "human rights" conference in Geneva last year. The planned "population and development" Cairo conference forms the third chapter in the constitution. During the winter of 1995, two major conferences will be held on an international summit level, one in Geneva dealing with women's affairs and the other in Copenhagen dealing with development.

Jamil Matar, the well-known expert on political and international affairs, has commented on this state of affairs, writing in the London-based AL-HAYAH on 19 July 1994: "In these chapters that will form the new constitution, values will be reformulated and new values will be established. All the chapters will include rules and policies emphasizing that a country's sovereignty will not be observed and will not be an obstacle in the face of the global principles and values that the constitution preaches or dictates. In all the documents submitted to the leaders attending those conferences, there is a clear call to the leaders of the nations of the south to focus on particular, not general, issues in their societies, such as the individual, women, the private sector, and children. The international values and rules in these documents will be used to confront any country's excesses or shortcomings and its values and traditions, if they contradict the new global values."

Between Secular and Believer Positions

The philosophical premise of the UN International Conference on Population and Development proceeds from a purely secular perspective, where the human being is seen as a means of profit and a number in an equation. It sees the world as an independent and whole entity, unconcerned with the mystical and consequently basing no hope on it. The world's resources and the limits of its growth are what we see translated into computer charts. The rules of the universe and destiny set by the Creator, who is all-knowing and all- giving, are not taken into account.

According to experts' assessments, the world has limited resources and has a carrying capacity for a limited number of people. According to this assumption, they want the world's population to stop at 7.275 billion in 2015. All countries must cooperate in adhering to this number on the grounds that any human increase beyond this point is an unwanted excess and, indeed, the prelude to a catastrophe that will befall the world. To prevent this, all countries must avoid this unwanted excess by all available means.

We cannot see scientific proof that humanity has placed its hands on all the world's resources to be able to say that they are limited and to state definitely that the planet's carrying capacity will be able to accommodate only a limited "number" of people after 20 years. In conclusion, all this is a mere assumption or belief, more "ideological" than scientific. In this case, dragging the entire world on a course of action based on this assumption, which might be right or wrong, and forcing it to pursue certain policies based on it involves a major adventure of uncertain results.

The difference between the secular and the believer positions on this and other issues is that the secular attitude is governed by the mind alone while the second attitude is governed by mind and mysticism together. According to secular thought, a human being is an absolute reality and can be governed by market forces and the rule of supply and demand. In the example we are discussing, what is intended is to halt population increase at a certain level so that the supply will not exceed the demand. This will corrupt the "deal" of human life.

The believer's mind deals with the issue from a completely different perspective. It regards the human being in a more noble light that rises above mere arithmetic. It rejects the humiliation of subjugating it to the logic of market forces. A human being is an honored creature in whom God breathed His spirit and placed him as his heir on earth after subjugating the univer[illegible] to him.

A human being uses his mind and handles the means that enable him to plan his present and future in a better way, always realizing that his mind is relative, not absolute, and that his planning will help him achieve his goals with the assistance and blessing of God.

The British economist Malthus was the first to postulate, in the 18th century, the limited nature of the world's resources. He was the first to warn of an impending catastrophe as a result of population increase. His views were strongly pessimistic because, although he believed in God (he began life as a clergyman), he did not trust God enough. Hence he continued to ring a warning bell until his death, warning of the bleak future that awaited humanity as a result of the population increase. His theories and pronouncements did not come true in Europe but his disciples claim that they now apply to the Third World.

Perhaps I do not find a big philosophical difference between this logic, which urges us to promptly get rid of the unwanted excess of human beings by 2015 to let the world's residents live in comfort and health, and the Nazi idea, which advocated the extermination of the incapacitated, the handicapped, the wounded, gypsies, and Jews on the grounds that they were a burden on

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society and unproductive groups, described in Nazi literature as useless eaters [preceding two words in English]. The Nazis sought to keep only pure, sound, and productive elements in their society.

The concept of a mutually charitable society known to people of faith is completely absent from the background of the project to limit the world's population. Instead it is permeated by the idea of a contractual, pragmatic world as advocated by the Western world's prevalent secular ideology.

Residents Not Always Obstacle

The ICPD's plan depends on a number of axioms, most of which need reexamination. To say that population growth represents an obstacle to development has not been proven scientifically or practically. China is evidence to the contrary. The country with the largest population currently has the highest economic growth rate in the world (13 percent). We conclude from this that population growth can be an obstacle to development if there is no proper exploitation of human resources. Human resources can be a factor encouraging development, if there are wise policies that can properly utilize people and turn them into a productive force.

Additionally, the epidemics that are killing millions of Third World people and the destruction of the environment in many parts of the world threaten development more than population growth. Some members of the ICPD preparatory committee in New York expressed these views during the committee's meeting in April, but the prevailing view, along with some pressure, was to consolidate the aforesaid axioms, not to discuss or reexamine them.

Again, to say that the entire world is facing a population explosion cannot be accepted offhand. The Arab world, for example, does not see this as a priority problem, indeed some Arab regions (like the Gulf) suffer from population scarcity. No one can say that Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, Libya, Sudan, Tunisia, and Mauritania have a population problem. All that can be said is that Egypt has a relative population problem with smaller population problems in Morocco and Algeria. When we look closely we will find that these three countries' problems are caused by slow economic and social development rates rather than high birthrates.

If we look at the Arab world as a whole, we will emerge with a completely different impression. We will find that its real problem is poor distribution of population and bad investment of its human resources and not a population explosion. Members of the African Science Academy released a statement to mark the invitation to the ICPD. They said that the population in Africa is considered to be the basic factor in development and that without them or by reducing their number the sources of wealth in the continent would remain undeveloped and untapped. Thus the problem in Africa does not lie in the population but indeed in the lack of soil fertility and in insufficient land investment. Margaret (Okawa), a physicist in Kenya, published research in which she said that Africa might become empty of population in the future if it pursued a policy of population control and if AIDS continued to spread.

In addition, the population growth about which we caution remains a weapon in the hands of the weak in confronting life crises and nature. Population growth was one of the weapons of the resistance with which the Palestinians confronted the Israeli occupation. It was the weapon of Asia's Muslims in resisting Communist repression and Russian hegemony. And it remains the weapon of the poor in Bangladesh to confront the occasional hurricanes, epidemics, and floods.

Economists and traditionalists seized Malthus' warning about population growth and exploited it in justifying the poor distribution of income from which the European peoples suffered during the Industrial Revolution in the 19th century. We fear that the same logic might be behind the current propagation of this notion. The big powers that dominate and exploit the world's resources want to retain their distinguished status. To camouflage the contemporary bad distribution of wealth, these powers consistently seek to convince the Third World countries that their peoples are responsible for their poverty, because their population growth hinders development and brings misery.

Exaggeration of the Sex Issue

Despite the fact that the ICPD is devoted to population and development, the share of development in its program is extremely modest. As for the population issue, it is cut down to women's rights and equality, and family planning, which we appreciate and respect. But we are surprised by this exaggerated concentration on the issue of "sexual and reproductive health" and the signals that separate marriage, sex, and childbirth. These issues are considered in the program to be different, although in our concept they represent one indivisible issue. We do not want to speak of the references to "teenager" pregnancies," which is not a problem in our country.

Anyway, what drew our attention most in the talk about resolving the problem of the spread of AIDS is that there is emphasis on numerous issues relating to the media, responsible and safe sexual behavior, and the precautions that must be takenX including "avoidance of using syringes between drug addicts." All this is emphasized without any remark about the role of "morals." The recommendations only called on nongovernmental organizations first and local organizations second and then religious figures to do their duty in combating the disease. These remarks do not worry us much because they primarily express a Western view that is not surprised by what we abhor and loath. The ICPD is open to all ideas, no matter what our views. What is more important is that the Egyptian stance is clear and decisive vis-a-vis its resolutions and recommendations. President Husni Mubarak expressed this in reports published

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yesterday when he declared that Egypt will only comply with what is consistent with heavenly laws and observed traditions. I believe that this represents the stance of all Arab and Islamic countries. I understand that the transport minister conveyed the same message to the al-Azhar rector and the Orthodox Copts patriarch, certainly to satisfy and please us.

Writer Considers, Doubts ICPD Objectives

NC1308090894 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 10 Aug 94 p 2

["Kaleidoscope" column by Ahmad Bahjat: "A Reading of the Papers of the Conference"]

[Text] The agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] leaves the reader with mixed feelings of admiration and doubt.

The source of admiration is the style in which the draft has been formulated and the careful and cautious language that leaves no room for misinterpretation, in addition to the grand meanings of the words used.

This is from the formal aspect. Doubt, however, comes in the subjective aspect, which is that the conference is setting policy for 20 years to come. It believes that it will contribute toward stabilizing the world's population and realizing continuous economic growth for mankind. In addition, it also believes that it will shift consumption and production rates. From the conference's perspective, the noblest objective is to improve the quality of life of current and future generations (notice the confidence in this statement). The ultimate objective is to facilitate demographic change as quickly as possible in the countries that need such change, while fully respecting human rights.

Can all this be realized? Something about the draft agenda of the conference brings to my mind the god of gods of Mount Olympus, Zeus, when one day he sat on top of the mountain and proceeded to determine how much the world can increase here or decrease there without the use of force or oppression, but through conviction, humanitarian methods, and Zeusian orders.

There are no criticisms of the draft agenda, then, apart from the grand hopes and great confidence reflected in the wording of the project. There is no ban on hopes, and there is nothing wrong with great confidence so long as its objective is to achieve these hopes.

I also noticed that the draft agenda does not discuss sexual freedom. It talks about sexual health. It also does not encourage abortion outright and does not maintain that it is a solution for population growth. Where do the accusations leveled against the conference—that it calls for sexual freedom and abortion as a solution for population growth control—stem from? Where did such a strong accusation come from? Is it an unfair accusation, or is it an actual policy of the conference and its organizers proceeding from previous stands? This makes it necessary for us to read what the pope has said about the conference. We then have to read what the pope's opponents have to say about the conference so that opinion and counter-opinion are complete.

Pakistan Extradites Three 'Terrorists'

NC1308073994 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 10 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Nasir Abu-al-Fadl]

[Text] Three Egyptian terrorists were handed over to Egypt yesterday. They were expelled by Pakistani security authorities along with 12 Afghan Arabs from Peshawar recently. The three terrorists arrived at Cairo Airport amid extensive security measures on board an Egyptian plane from Abu Dhabi.

Pakistani authorities arrested the terrorists last week as part of a campaign to track down terrorists implicated in acts of sabotage within Pakistan. The three were expelled to Egypt in accordance with an agreement between the two countries.

Amid very tight security measures, the three were taken for interrogation to reveal the extent of their involvement in masterminding recent terrorist attacks in Egypt.

A responsible security source stated that the arrest of these terrorists is a continuation of a successful policy to track down terrorist leaders abroad.

Authorities Report Capture, Killing of 'Terrorists'

'Terrorist' Attacks Guard, Captured

NC1308094594 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 10 Aug 94 p 1

[Text] Security organs yesterday arrested the terrorist Mu'tassim Muhammad Taha Ahmad 'Amir—also known as Nash'at—in Tima in Suhaj hours after he fled after firing s/hots at a security guard.

A responsible security source stated that a search plan was set up to capture the fugitive through coordination between security forces in Suhaj and Asyut. Investigators believed he had fled to the village of al-Barba in Sidfa in Asyut to hide among relatives. Security forces immediately set up mobile and fixed roadblocks, one of which managed to catch the fugitive.

'Terrorist' Killed in Asyut

NC1408134094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1258 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] Asyut, 14 Aug (MENA)—A terrorist was killed in a gun battle with police in the Sahil Salim section of Asyut this morning. A responsible security source said that police had received information that 'Ali Sayyid Hasan, a man known to have taken part in several terrorist operations, was hiding in Sahil Salim. A police force was dispatched to his hideout, but he resisted arrest and was killed in the ensuing gun battle.

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An automatic machine gun with five rounds in its clip was found beside Hasan's body. Two Russian-made pistols, a shotgun, and several organizational documents were also retrieved from the scene. The Asyut Prosecution Office has begun investigating the case.

9 'Rioters' Said Wounded in Clash With Police

NC1308194194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1912 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 13 Aug (MENA)—A responsible security source has stated that as part of al-Qalubiyah Governorate's plan to organize campaigns to remove unlicensed buildings and objects obstructing road traffic, one of the teams carrying out the plan was surprised to face resistance by a group of citizens and youngsters who obstructed their work and incited people to prevent it with force. They pelted the team members with stones, assaulted them, and tried to destroy their equipment. The head of the Shubra al-Khaymah City Council and some officials responsible for conducting the campaign were wounded as a result.

Leading police officials and forces immediately arrived at the scene of the incident, whereupon they broke up the riots, brought the situation under control, and dispersed the crowd. As a result, nine rioters were wounded and taken to the Nasir Hospital for treatment. The police force did not sustain any casualties. The Shubra al-Khaymah prosecutor has been told to investigate the incident.

Sudan

Interior Minister Reports Arrest of 'Carlos'

EA1508113094 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Khartoum 15 Aug (SUNA)—Minister of interior, Brigadier Tayyib Ibrahim Muhammad Khayr announced in a statement this morning that the Sudanese security authorities have arrested an international terrorist who entered the country using false passport and identity.

The statement, broadcast by Radio Omdurman, explained that the terrorist, Carlos, of a Venezuelan nationality, has been wanted by the French authority for killing two French and wounding three others.

The statement added that the terrorist was extradited by the Sudanese security authorities to the Interpol, following a French demand in this respect.

Said Turned Over to France

NC1508104794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Aug (MENA)—A MENA correspondent in Khartoum has learned that the foreigner whom Sudanese authorities have handed over to the French Government is the Venezuelan Illich Ramirez, internationally known as Carlos. The correspondent learned that the international terrorist had entered Sudan with a forged passport bearing a false name. Terrorist Carlos' name was mentioned in a letter the French Government sent to Sudanese security authorities.

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Kuwait

Cabinet Condemns Killing of UNIKOM Soldier

LD1408153594 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1332 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 14 Aug—The State of Kuwait today condemned the attack against a United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission [UNIKOM] patrol in the demilitarized zone on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti borders last Friday in which one member of the patrol was killed and two others wounded.

This stance was expressed following a meeting of the council of ministers held under the chairmanship of First Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah.

A statement issued by the council of ministers said: This crime is one in a series of repeated Iraqi acts of aggression and breaches in the areas under UN control.

The statement added: This act demonstrates Iraq's insistence on defying international resolutions and continuing its aggressive policies, which are producing more tension and instability in the region.

The council of ministers' statement called on the UN Security Council to take all necessary measures to put an end to Iraq's repeated violations, which have revealed the Iraqi regime's true nature and its intentions, and to take all steps needed to ensure that it adhere to international resolutions concerning its aggression against the state of Kuwait in order to bolster peace and stability in the region.

Iraq has acknowledged last night's incident but blamed what it called wine smugglers for it. [passage omitted]

Bulgarian Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives

LD1508073694 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0606 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 15 Aug—Bulgarian Deputy Foreign Minister Dimtar Ikunov starts talks here today with high-ranking Kuwaiti officials. Ikunov arrived in the State of Kuwait at dawn yesterday on a three-day official visit.

In a press statement he made here today, Dimtar Ikunov affirmed Bulgaria's solidarity and support for Kuwaiti rights, particularly in connection with the issue of Kuwaiti prisoners and detainees in Iraqi prisons. In a statement to AL-ANBA, Dimtar stressed the need to force the Iraqi regime to officially recognize the State of Kuwait as a sovereig state, and also recognize the official borders confirmed by the United Nations. The Bulgarian official says he will deliver a written message to Amier Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

$4-Billion Communications Deal Signed With AT&T

LD1308203794 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Minister of Posts, Telephones, and Telegraph 'Alawi Darwish Kayyal signed a contract with AT&T Chairman of the Board Robert Allen today. He signed another contract with the same company and its Saudi partner, (Abdullah Sa'id Bukhshan) and Bros.

The first contract concerns the execution of the Telephone Expansion Project-6 with a capacity of 2.5 million telephone lines, and the second contract concerns the import and installment of a telecommunications network for mobile communications of the Digital Communications Network, with a capacity of 200,000 lines, which will cover most towns in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The total cost of the project is about $4 billion, which makes it the biggest project won by the AT&T outside the United States.

The project will double the capacity of the communications network in the Kingdom from 1.5 million lines to 3 million lines, and it will modernize and develop the network toward digital communications.

The modernization and development will include a network to link towns by fiber optics, digital microwave, and satellite networks, and operation, maintenance, and information systems.

In addition to the signing of the two contracts, an agreement was signed on economic cooperation between the Kingdom and AT&T under the umbrella of the economic balance plan which was drawn by the Kingdom in the early 1980's and applied to big contracts in order to redistribute a part of the value of those contracts in the Saudi economy in the form of investment projects that would contribute to development efforts in the Kingdom.

AT&T is holding talks with three Saudi companies, well established in the fields of manufacturing and engineering, with a view to consolidating their technical and commercial capabilities. [passage omitted]

Two Pakistanis Beheaded for Smuggling Heroin

LD1208122894 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] The Interior Ministry issued today a statement according to which Yahyah Bin-'Ali Bin-Sa'd al-Hamidi was punished in Abha, in 'Asir region, on 12 August 1994, for killing 'Ali Bin-al-Rashdan Bin-Nasir al-Rab'i by firing at him with a rifle after a dispute.

The Interior Ministry issued also another statement in which it said that Arsala Khan Masil Khan, a Pakistani

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national, was beheaded in Riyadh today, 12 August 1994, for smuggling a quantity of heroin into the Kingdom.

The Interior Ministry issued another statement according to which Akhtar Muhammad Sultan Jamal, a Pakistani national, was beheaded in Riyadh today, 12 August 1994, for smuggling a quantity of heroin into the Kingdom.

United Arab Emirates

New Immigration Laws Come Into Effect 1 Sep

JN1408124494 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 10 Aug 94 p 1

[Text] Abu Dhabi—AL-BAYAN office—Cabinet Decision No. 4 for 1994 on the entry of foreigners' families and maids will be implemented as of 1 September.

Brigadier General Hilal Sa'id al-Zahiri, assistant under secretary of the Interior Ministry for citizenship and immigration affairs, has stated the following:

Article 1 of the decision includes the sectors that are allowed to bring their families into the country. These sectors are: Engineers, physicians, pharmacists, nurses, agriculture advisers, certified accountants, auditors, teaching staff at universities and higher education academies, teachers, Armed Forces and Police officers, technicians working with electronic equipment and in laboratories, lawyers and lawmen, workers at oil companies, qualified administrative employees, and businessmen or partners in limited liability companies provided that the share of the partner is not less than one third or 70,000 dirhams as a minimum.

Article 2 of the decision stipulates that the salary of the person permitted to bring in his family must not be less than 4,000 dirhams if the employer provides housing and 5,000 dirhams if housing is not provided. An official certificate attested by competent state departments showing the salary of the employee is required.

Article 3 defines family members as wife, sons up to the age of 18, and unmarried daughters.

Article 4 stipulates that the sectors mentioned in Article 1 can bring in maids provided that the monthly salary of the sponsor who wants to bring in a maid, is not less than 6,000 dirhams and provided that the sponsor pays to the state treasury each year the equivalent to the annual salary of the maid, provided that the monthly salary of the maid is not less than 400 dirhams.

Article 5 of the decision stipulates that the sectors that are allowed to bring families or maids into the country, should settle their situation in accordance with the provisions of this decision and should complete the procedures for the departure of the individuals whom they sponsor once their residence permits expire.

Brig. Gen. Hilal Sa'id al-Zahiri said that the General Directorate for Citizenship and Immigration has prepared a rider to explain the decree. The rider has been distributed to the citizenship and immigration directorates in the state, and work shall proceed in accordance with it as of 1 September.

Yemen

Al-'Attas on Damascus Meetings, YSP Statement

JN1408194694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Aug 94 pp 1, 14

[Interview with former Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas by Ibrahim Hamidi in Damascus "following the issuance of the Yemeni Socialist Party statement;" date not given]

[Text] [Hamidi] Are you satisfied with the results of the party's Damascus meetings?

[Al-'Attas] Discussions were frank and clear. The statement constituted a basis for future action to effect national reconciliation in Yemen. The statement opened the door for the return of everybody. Everybody is personally responsible for his own return before national reconciliation is effected. This fact has been implied because there are no guarantees for the returnees. The return issue is left for those who want to return on their own and through their personal contacts and the guarantees they will be able to obtain. Actually, the return will be effected after national reconciliation.

[Hamidi] Have you demanded U.S. or Arab guarantees?

[Al-'Attas] No, we demand that national reconciliation be effected because the actual return is connected with it. Perhaps some of the brothers may return, but many Political Bureau members are hesitant because there is no national reconciliation.

[Hamidi] It is said that the call for the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] leaders' return was weak. Do you agree?

[Al-'Attas] This was intentional because the return at this stage is a personal responsibility if the returnee is convinced of the guarantees he is offered. Our final statement included a plan of action with emphasis on national reconciliation, rehabilitation, and the formation of a broad-based coalition.

[Hamidi] Why did the party's secretary general, 'Ali Salim al- Bid, not attend?

[Al-'Attas] Normally during the party meeting, a reference is made to the person who chairs the meeting. We tried to have him attend but circumstances did not permit his presence. I do not think Syria objected. I think it welcomes him. He absence was due to personal reasons but he was in constant contact with us.

[Hamidi] Did he offer to quit for the sake of the party's future?

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[Al-'Attas] This never happened.

[Hamidi] But the statement is a coup against the secession decision?

[Al-'Attas] I assure you that the war was the basic problem in every sense of the word. We support the Pledge and Reconciliation document, which we helped draft. What happened after the war was caused entirely by the war. We made the decision to establish a state in the south as a precautionary measure to prevent the war from spreading and to stop Yemen from dividing. It may be said that the war was basically aimed against the south and under the cover of attacking the YSP. Why did they burn the civilian registration records? Was not this aimed at wiping out the character of the south? Why did they destroy establishments such as the refinery and schools.

[Hamidi] It is said that the ball now is in Sanaa's court. What are you expecting from it?

[Al-'Attas] Observers of this issue believe the Political Bureau adopted this statement as a test of Sanaa's credibility and its claims that it aims to restore national reconciliation. I cannot say anything now about what we are expecting. However, we will proceed on the right path if wiser counsel prevail and Sanaa overcomes its obsessions, particularly the idea that it is victorious and that the south is second rate. I am certain that the statement is a restoration of the party's prestige.

[Hamidi] Do you accuse the Reform Grouping of having been behind the war decision in order to end the YSP's existence?

[Al-'Attas] No, but the tribal mentality and the mentality of annexation has been Sanaa's way of dealing with the Yemeni governorates. They destroyed houses, burned farms, and robbed homes. The grouping's stand was an important factor, but they made the YSP a scapegoat for attacking the south.

[Hamidi] Why did you declare secession on 21 May?

[Al-'Attas] Once again, I say the secession decision came as a result of the war. It was made three weeks after the war. The objectives were to stop the war, to reach a peaceful solution, and to redress the course of unity. These objectives are still valid.

[Hamidi] Does this not show a lack of understanding of the international will?

[Al-'Attas] We acted based on our convictions. I emphasize here that the decision was made in the presence of all the Political Bureau members inside Yemen. We contacted each other. I was abroad. When they asked me about my opinion, I offered it frankly. They discussed the situation with each other and made the secession decision. We did not wager on the U.S. opinion because it was clear that the United States was not for secession, but for redressing the course of unity.

[Hamidi] But some sides deny any relationship with the decision?

[Al-'Attas] They are trying to evade their responsibilities. This is untrue. We are all responsible because the decision was made unanimously. We can say that some sides preferred to wait to get some guarantees and recognition. However, we all agreed on the secession decision. No one opposed this decision, because all efforts to stop the war had failed. This was the only option for the party.

[Hamidi] Was this not part of the distribution of roles among the party leaders?

[Al-'Attas] No, not at all. Everyone attended the meeting and agreed on the decision. Some asked for U.S. and regional guarantees before declaring secession. Some preferred to wait for an appropriate time. So, the difference was over the timing and conditions, not over the decision itself. There is no need for justifications.

[Hamidi] So, why did you lose the war?

[Al-'Attas] Sanaa was able to penetrate our party. Had this not happened, the military defeat would not have occurred. Sanaa managed to reach the Zionist lobby, which we have confronted in the United States. So, the Zionist lobby was for the General People's Congress and President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih was against the YSP and the south. We can notice that the Zionists are in a hurry to pick the fruits of their effort, for there is a Jewish delegation to arrange for deporting the remaining Jews to Israel.

[Hamidi] What about the party's political future?

[Al-'Attas] It is premature to talk about this. The party's survival hinges on its ability to uphold the south's issue within the framework of the united Yemen, but how? This issue needs to be discussed. The party should uphold the issue of the south just as it did the north issue before unity.

[Hamidi] Does this mean that you will remain in the government coalition?

[Al-'Attas] No, we have decided to join the opposition ranks. The party ministers should resign. We have said this. Sanaa is planning to form a new cabinet, but we will not participate in it.

[Hamidi] Will the party ministers agree on this?

[Al-'Attas] The decision depends on everyone, or otherwise, we will make a decision against anyone who joins the cabinet. Everything will take place at the right time.

[Hamidi] This might lead to a split?

[Al-'Attas] I said that the more the party can uphold the issue of the south and struggle to restore its prestige, the more it can continue. If the party fails to do so, it will cease to exist. I do not want to discuss a split. I hope it

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will not take place. I hope the YSP will uphold the issue of the south. This depends on the party members in the north.

[Hamidi] What if they do not accept this?

[Al-'Attas] Of course, the split will take place. The northern brothers should think of this.

[Hamidi] Are you preparing to hold the party's fourth congress?

[Al-'Attas] We have agreed on this point. The main option will be to hold the congress inside Yemen. My continued presence in it depends on circumstances.

[Hamidi] If the party's future depends on a certain group, will you end your political activity?

[Al-'Attas] All sides are responsible for the secession. Everyone participated in the war, even Minister of Fish Resources Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah. We sent him arms and supplies from Aden. He fought strongly. Had he not adopted a stand he would not have fought. Nothing succeeds like success.

150 'Misled People' Return Home From Abroad

JN1508055594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Excerpt] A new group comprising 150 misled people returned to the homeland yesterday, as part of the return of the people who fled the homeland following the sedition ignited by the secessionist rebels. The return of those people is in response to a general amnesty decree issued by the Presidential Council. [passage omitted]

Party To Struggle Against Sanaa's 'Occupation'

MM1508093094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Aug 94 p6

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—The Sons of Yemen League Party has pledged "to struggle with all possible means for the liberation of our country from the Sanaa regime's military occupation," and for "the establishment of an ideal political system in the south." In a statement, a copy of which was received by AL-HAYAH yesterday, the party reaffirmed its insistence on "the alliance which emerged during the unjust war waged against the south." It said that that alliance, led by the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] during the Yemeni war, "was an advanced step toward the achievement of true national unity."

It said that the continuation of that alliance is "imperative for the salvation of our people in the south from the occupation, hegemony, and humiliation of the Sanaa regime."

The party lauded "the steadfastness of our people in Democratic Yemen," especially in the "epic defense of Aden against the invasion and occupation plotted by the Sanaa regime." It stressed that unity will remain one of its objectives and pledged to continue "the struggle against the occupation in the south and for the introduction of an ideal system in the south in which the Pledge and Accord Document would be implemented. The League's members in the north will continue their struggle against corruption, tyranny, and backwardness."

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UNIKOM Soldier Killed in 'Ambush' 12 Aug

LD1308141494 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1344 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Kuwait, 13 Aug (KUNA)— A spokesman for the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission, UNIKOM, said here today that a member of the UN force from Bangladesh was killed and two others wounded in an ambush last night on the Iraqi side of the demilitarized zone.

In a statement to KUNA, the spokesman added that the incident, the first of its kind involving a UNIKOM patrol, occurred on the Safwan-Baghdad highway, on the Iraqi side of the demilitarized zone at 2250 precisely on Friday night.

The spokesman said that the soldier who was killed was a noncommissioned officer. He added that the two wounded Bangladeshis had been taken to a Kuwaiti hospital for treatment; their condition is stable.

The spokesman described the incident as "serious," and said that it constitutes a threat to security and stability and to the lives of the UNIKOM force. He added that investigations are under way to identify the perpetrators, and stated that UNIKOM has protested to the Iraqi authorities.

The UNIKOM spokesman said that since November 1993 three shooting incidents have taken place, but last night's incident was the most serious because of the loss of life.

He stated that the result of the investigations to identify the perpetrators of the crime will be available in the next few days.

INA Blames 'Thieves'

JN1308165694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Al-Basrah, 13 Aug (INA)—The INA correspondent in al-Basrah has reported that an armed group of thieves and smugglers last night attacked a UN unit in Safwan, in the southern part of al-Basrah Governorate. The correspondent says the incident resulted in the death of one Bangladeshi soldier and the injury of two others.

An informed source in al-Basrah Governorate said this group of smugglers attacked the UN unit because the same unit had in the past confiscated a quantity of alcoholic beverages which the smugglers were trying to smuggle into Kuwait and that the incident was an act of revenge against the unit's previous action.

The INA correspondent learned that the Iraqi authorities and the United Nations are investigating the incident and that orders were given to pursue the culprits.

An informed source in al-Basrah said there are no armed Iraqi military units in the area and that the incident took place in the demilitarized zone.

UNIKOM To Investigate

NC1408132394 Paris AFP in English 1305 GMT 14 Aug 94

[By Amani al-Sawi]

[Excerpts] Kuwait City, Aug 14 (AFP)—The UN force on the Kuwait-Iraq border is investigating the murder of one of its Bangladeshi soldiers but has no plan to increase the number of observers in the demilitarized zone, a spokesman said.

Gunmen in civilian clothes shot dead Lieutenant Harun ur-Rashid and wounded two other Bangladeshi members of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) in an ambush late Friday.

Iraq said the attack was carried out by smugglers seeking revenge for the confiscation of a consignment of alcohol.

"We are evaluating the practical procedures to provide the personnel... But we have no plan to take any additional measures to secure our people," said a UNIKOM spokesman, asking not to be named.

"We will not decrease or increase the number of UN peacekeepers," he said. "We are investigating as well as the Iraqis, and the results will appear within a few days."

He said: "The situation is very quiet at the borders. That's why the incident came as a surprise."

Rashid was the first member of the 1,150-man mission to be killed since it was deployed along the 200-kilometre (120-mile) border in April 1991 following the Gulf War.

UNIKOM sent a message of protest to Baghdad on Saturday to "denounce this barbaric slaughter." But the United Nations has avoided blaming the Iraqis.

"We cannot identify the assailants, if they are Iraqis or not. It was late and the injured observers could not see the people who shot them," the spokesman said. [passage omitted]

A Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry official said his country would wait for the results of the UN investigation.

"We should not worry" because the situation along the border has generally been calm, the official said. "Any disturbance on the borders has negative results on Iraq."

Baghdad is hoping to persuade the United Nations to lift its embargo, imposed after Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

The UN Security Council set up UNIKOM two months after Iraqi troops were driven out of Kuwait in February 1991 by a US-led coalition. The border has since been redrawn, with an additional strip of land given to Kuwait.

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Killers Dressed as Civilians

NC1408061394 Paris AFP in English 0027 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] Kuwait City, Aug 13 (AFP)—A UN observer killed and two others who were wounded in the demilitarized zone on the Iraq-Kuwait border were ambushed by men in civilian clothing on the Iraqi side of the zone, one of the injured observers said Saturday [13 August].

Mohammad Mustafa Golam, 34, said from his hospital bed that he and the two other soldiers, all from Bangladesh and belonging to the UN Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM), were on a routine patrol Friday evening on the Iraqi side of the demilitarized zone when the incident occurred.

"At the beginning, the road was clear, but when we checked for the second time, it was blocked with stones," he said. "Myself and the lieutenant (Mohammad Harun ur-Rashid) went out of the car to check and all of a sudden, three or four people started to shoot from everywhere."

He said ur-Rashid was killed on the spot and he was wounded in the left leg. The third observer, Mohammad Rafiq Golam, 34, was slightly injured and released from hospital Saturday.

Golam said that the assailants wore civilian clothing and stood about 100 meters (yards) from the observers who carried machine guns but never had the chance to use them.

"We have instructions to shoot but we could not," he said.

The incident marked the first casualty for UNIKOM since it was deployed along the 200 kilometres (120 miles) border in April 1991.

The official Kuwaiti news agency KUNA reported earlier that the UN had protested to Iraq and launched an inquiry after the soldiers had been caught in an "ambush" laid by the Iraqis.

But a UN official speaking on condition of anonymity refused to confirm where the shots were fired from.

"We don't know if they are Iraqis or not," he said, adding the attack "is very dangerous and will put at risk the lives and property of the UNIKOM personnel."

Iraqi authorities denied any of their soldiers were involved saying no military units were based in the zone and blaming the attack on bandits, in a statement published by the official Iraqi agency INA received in Cyprus.

"A band of bandits and traffickers attacked the UN post at Safwan" in southeastern Iraq "in revenge for it having confiscated alcoholic drinks they were trying to bring into Iraq."

It added that "Iraqi authorities and the United Nations are investigating the incident and orders have been given to bring the accused to justice."

The UN observer mission in Kuwait was set up by the UN Security Council in April 1991. It includes a 775-strong infantry unit sent from Bangladesh last November.

'Blackmail Campaign' Said Aimed at Clintons

JN1208155094 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 12 Aug 94 pp 12-14

[Report by Chief Editor Walid Abu-Zahr: "Secrets of Meeting of Qusayy Saddam Husayn, Nizar Hamdun With Americans in Europe. Iraq Threatens To Scandalize Clinton If Embargo Is Not Lifted. Baghdad Threatens To Publish Documents About Iraqi Transactions, Gifts to Clinton in Arkansas"]

[Text] Iraq is now awaiting the results of its "political blackmail" of U.S. President Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary. Iraq hopes the blackmail campaign leads to the lifting of the international embargo imposed on it since its invasion of Kuwait.

According to information received by AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, Baghdad has indirectly threatened Clinton about revealing documents about his relationship with the Iraqi regime when he was governor of Arkansas, as well as about the precious personal gifts he received, along with his wife, who had been working in a law office, thus triggering a domestic crisis that would put Clinton's political career on the line.

The information was revealed to AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI by a reliable source. This friendly source spoke about the details of a meeting held recently in a presidential headquarters in Baghdad, attended by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and Qusayy Saddam Husayn, who is in charge of presidential security.

The friendly source summed up the scenario as follows:

When Tariq 'Aziz traveled to New York, he had great hopes that he would succeed in lifting the embargo, even partially and in stages, in order to save the Iraqi regime from the severe economic conditions that pose a real threat to it. Outside Iraq, you hear about starvation, scarcity of medicine, price hikes, and harsh conditions. You see lines of Iraqis racing to leave Iraq and run away from the inferno of impossible living conditions. You have heard about the sharp drop in the Iraqi dinar. However, you do not know that Baghdad and the other major Iraqi cities are now free arenas for gangs that plunder and loot. These gangs rob houses and are active on highways in broad daylight. At 11 pm, Baghdad looks like a deserted city. It used to be a city that did not sleep, even at the peak of the Iraq-Iran war. The city used to be bathed in lights all night and Iraqis would stay up till the break of dawn. Today, however, the atmosphere is grim and sad.

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When Tariq 'Aziz arrived in New York, he found out that the situation was much more complicated that what he had thought. He was shocked to see that the Clinton administration was still obstinate. In fact, it now insists more obstinately on maintaining the embargo, even though Iraq had pinned great hopes on the old relationship with Clinton when he was Arkansas governor.

Tariq 'Aziz returned to Baghdad, according to the source, and met quickly with Saddam Husayn. The meeting was attended by Qusayy Saddam Husayn, the official in charge of presidential security, and " 'Abd," the president's secretary. Defense Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid and Husayn Kamil, Saddam's son-in-law and war industrialization minister, happened to be there, so Saddam asked them to stay to attend the meeting.

Using his diplomatic style, Tariq 'Aziz presented a detailed report about his contacts in New York. The presentation lasted about 75 minutes. 'Aziz highlighted all aspects of the visit, the nature of his contacts, the replies he had received, and concluded that most nations, including Russia and France, "do not object to" lifting the embargo. However, they are waiting for the green light from the United States. The United States has not relented at all.

Saddam listened to the report carefully and said: We have reached a very difficult stage. America wants to kill us, and our situation is now delicate. He then turned to his son Qusayy and said: Qusayy has something to say.

Qusayy said: The fact is that before the New York meetings, and before Comrade Tariq 'Aziz's departure, two old American friends, of Arab origin, who cooperated with Comrade Nizar Hamdun, came to see me here. (Hamdun was the first Iraqi ambassador in Washington after both countries resumed relations in 1982.) We talked with the U.S. envoys to explore the best way to make Clinton and his administration lift the embargo.

Qusayy added: I travelled to a European country where I met with two American businessmen with whom we had trade relations. Nizar Hamdun accompanied me. One of the two businessmen supplied us with wheat shipments. The office of Hillary Clinton was in charge of this businessman's legal work. This businessman also introduced Nizar Hamdun to Clinton and his wife when Clinton was the governor of Arkansas, which is rich with wheat.

Qusayy said: I told this man that we like to deal with America. We in Iraq are in need of giant reconstruction projects to reactivate the oil industry. We want America alone to be our full partner in all these projects, and we in Iraq prefer to deal with Clinton in particular. While Europe will have morsels only, the major projects will be for America and American companies. The Clinton administration will find out that the Iraqi regime will be closer to it than any other Arab regime and you will find in Iraq all cooperation and openness in all fields.

Tariq 'Aziz said: During my meetings with close American businessmen and personalities, I was concerned to emphasize this point, namely, the attractive economic gains. I even elaborated in explaining the political gains to the extent that I expressed Iraq's readiness to settle Palestinians in southern Iraq as a part of a solution to the refugee problem that is considered a complicated issue in the Middle East peace talks.

Tariq 'Aziz also expressed Iraq's readiness to recognize Israel. And as a sign of goodwill, Iraqi media have not made any comment on the Jordanian-Israeli accord.

Saddam Husayn interrupted him and said: You also placed in your New York office Clinton's photograph with his signature which he sent to you as a gift when he was the governor of Arkansas.

Saddam then said seriously: Comrade Tariq, Qusayy wants to add something about his trip.

Qusayy continued: We informed our friends, who are close to Hillary and the Clinton administration, that they must not let us reach the stage of despair, because a desperate person will be forced to do many things. One of the two men asked me: Does this mean you are threatening to create confusion? I told him: It is not time for that. However, you know that Clinton and his wife are involved in a scandal, and there are investigations and a clamor in the Congress.

Qusayy added: I then asked Nizar Hamdun to convey the message. He said: It is not in the ethics of Iraq and the Arabs to reveal old things. However, when we find that there is no hope of lifting the sanctions soon, we will reveal everything supported by documents on the relationship between Iraq and Clinton and his wife, as well as the gifts presented to them. Sa'dun [not further identified] addressed the American businessman: You know everything about these matters because they were through you; some were presented directly to them. You know if we open this file we will cause a big jolt to the U.S. Administration and to Clinton personally. We might not benefit from this and the siege might not be lifted, but we will shake Clinton as Watergate, Irangate, and Whitewater did.

Qusayy continued: This is our decision, and we will wait until the end of this year. If the embargo is not lifted by that time, everything will be dealt with in time despite the fact that we are aware of the negative aspects of discussing this option. The raising of this issue, in itself, will draw reactions from other friends of us, who will fear using this option against them. However, we are not now in a phase allowing us to take reactions into account.

Here, the businessman said: You are threatening in a Samson way: "Death to me and my enemies." Qusayy said: Death to my enemies and not to me. This is because our regime is stable. We may feel a little pain but we will

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go on. Clinton, however, may fall, and his Democratic Party may lose a chance to return to the White House.

Saddam smiled at Qusayy's comment. The dialogue continued, and 'Ali Hasan al-Majid said: It is true that we are passing through an economic crisis, but our regime is solid. It is stupid for such a regime as the U.S. regime to believe that the Army, which Saddam Husayn built, can be penetrated by a "plotter, coward, or traitor." Our Army exists and our masses are accustomed to enduring hardships.

Tariq 'Aziz wondered: Comrade Qusayy, what was the businessman's reply? Qusayy said: At the beginning, the businessman was actually surprised by the warning, and his reaction was severe. However, he was later overwhelmed by "wisdom" and became flexible. He told us that he will convey the message, saying "I hope I will convey it with amity in order to convince the Clinton administration."

The informed source said the Iraqi leadership received information indicating that a report on the meeting in that European state was received by U.S. intelligence officers sympathizing with the Republican Party, particularly former President George Bush. It is believed that Bush himself is now aware of the threat to make a scandal. So far, we do not know whether the Republicans will raise this issue at the Congress.

Concluding, the source said: The Iraqis have not yet received from the Clinton administration any reply to the "blackmail campaign," and the dimensions of this issue have not yet been known.

The file is still open. What remains is to recall the origins of the relationship between the Iraqis and Clinton, and how it began and developed, and what its objectives were. This relationship began with appointing Nizar Hamdun as Iraq's ambassador in Washington in 1982, for the first time since the 15-year-old severance of bilateral relations. Iraq was then at the peak of its wealth. Thus, once he assumed post, Hamdun, supported by huge funds placed at his disposal, began to host luxurious parties as a bait to attract U.S. personalities and those of Arab origin in order to establish strong relations with them.

At the same time, Hamdun commissioned certain U.S figures to work for him as advisers. The advisers were split into two groups:

1. One group was charged with selecting U.S. figures who are expected to have a prominent future in various fields. The advisers in this groups were to scrutinize prominent names or those who are expected to have a prominent position in the foreseeable future. They were also charged with finding out the points of weakness, the hobbies, the desires, and the ambitions of these figures. This group included prominent U.S. journalists.

2. The second group included prominent mediators with whom Nizar Hamdun wished to establish connections. The task of this group was to explore the possibilities for cooperation and to pave the way for it and provide the appropriate ground and venues for a meeting between Hamdun and the proposed figure, after Hamdun was provided with all information on that figure from the advisers of the first group.

With the beginning of Iraqi economic openness, Arab businessmen, unknowingly, helped expand Nizar Hamdun's connections. Since Iraq needed wheat and since deals of this nature are usually struck among governments, an adviser told Hamdun that the opportunity was now right to open a dialogue with Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton. Arkansas is a wheat-producing state and wheat farmers have the strongest vote there.

The adviser told Hamdun not to contact Clinton directly because U.S. laws do not allow a state governor to get involved in wheat deals. He advised him to seek the help of a third party. That third party was an American businessman who had one great advantage; the lawyer who oversees his legal affairs was the wife of Clinton, who, the adviser said, was a democratic, ambitious man with a potential for a great political future.

Without going into details, the mediator managed to establish a connection between Hamdun and Clinton. At Hamdun's proposal, Baghdad began to send gifts, Iraqi artifacts made of gold. The wheat deals increased Clinton's popularity in Arkansas. The relationship continued until late 1987 when Hamdun was transferred to Baghdad and replaced in Washington by Muhammad al-Mashshat, who was not informed of the network of connections Hamdun has established.

When the U.S. presidential race started, Saddam Husayn sent Nizar Hamdun to Sardinia to meet with a U.S. figure at the advice of an "American friend." It was agreed that Iraq would do something to weaken Bush's position and help Clinton win the presidential race. If Clinton won the election, Iraq would receive "good treatment." Iraq then invaded Kuwait and the coalition countries launched the war of liberation which the Iraqi papers called "Bush's war against Saddam." [paragraph as published]

Bush then lost and Clinton came to power. Clinton, however, has not shown any flexibility yet. Will the Iraqi campaign of blackmail bring about a different position?

IRNA Cites Report on Appeal to Israel

LD1208113394 Tehran IRNA in English 1119 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Genaveh (Bushehr Prov.), Aug. 12, IRNA—The ruler of Iraq's Ba'thist regime, Saddam Husayn, has announced his readiness to meet with Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Rabin, according to the radio "Voice of Iraqi People" monitored here Thursday night. The radio, which operates from somewhere in southern Iraq,

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quoted informed sources in Jordan as saying that a top Iraqi diplomat who has been invited by Jordanian King Husayn to take part at the inaugural ceremony of Jordan-Israeli border crossing, had informed Tel Aviv officials of Saddam's new decision.

The diplomat, whose name was not disclosed, in a meeting with Zionist delegation after the inaugural ceremony, briefed them on Saddam's new stand. The sources told the radio that if Tel Aviv assists Baghdad to get out of isolation and international sanctions, Saddam will be ready to sign agreements with the Zionist entity and officially recognize Israel.

They also added that the said Iraqi envoy also told the Israeli delegation that as part of its goodwill in this regard, Iraq is ready to help host one of the rounds of the American sponsored Middle East talks in Baghdad.

Media reports earlier had reported of secret contacts between Israel and the minority regime of Saddam ruling Iraq.

Diplomat Denies Reports

JN1308132794 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] An Iraqi diplomat in Amman has denied an Israeli television report that Iraq has asked Israel to initiate a dialogue to open a new page in their relations.

The Israeli source had said Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz addressed a letter that was presented to the Israeli ambassador to the United Nations by foreign diplomats proposing the initiation of such a dialogue. However, Israel refused this.

Government Forces Reportedly Bombarding Town

NC1308164594 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] According to reports from Kifri, Baghdad's fascist regime has been bombarding the areas surrounding Kifri during the past few days. No information on casualties or property losses is available.

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'Terrorist' Attacks, Clashes With Police Reported

2 'Terrorists' Killed Near Jerusalem

TA1208192094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Two terrorists, who have been hunted since this morning's attack in which three policemen were wounded, were shot dead in the al-Ram neighborhood north of Jerusalem. A third terrorist, who was wounded in the leg in the course of the clash tonight, escaped. Police and army troops are searching for him.

Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that both terrorists were killed by Jerusalem District Police officers. After the al-Ram clash, the officers found weapons which had been apparently used by the terrorists in this morning's attack. [passage omitted]

'Terrorists' Wound 4 in Gaza Area

TA1408083594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] There has been a terrorist attack on the Kissufim Road. Terrorists waiting in ambush fired at an Israeli vehicle, slightly wounding four passengers. The terrorists escaped in a vehicle into the Palestinian Authority. The attack occurred between the Kissufim roadblock and the Qatif Bloc. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is searching the area and has protested to the regional coordination committee.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0730 GMT on 14 August carries a related report, adding that "two Israelis sustained very slight wounds in the same area last night when an object was hurled at a bus in which they were traveling."]

Hamas Claims Responsibility

TA1408103094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] At noon, 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam, the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] military arm, published a leaflet taking responsibility for this morning's shooting at the Kissufim-Qatif Bloc junction. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the leaflet says that the attack was in response to the killing of two Hamas members in Jerusalem, the entry of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] into Khan Yunus last week, and the shooting in the town's Amal neighborhood. The leaflet also says that the IDF detained Sulayman Zuhayr, an Islamic Jihad activist, inside the autonomy.

Soroka Hospital in Beersheba told our correspondent Gay Qotev that the casualties in the Kissufim attack were released after receiving medical treatment.

1 Killed, 2 Wounded in Shooting

TA1408142694 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] Another terror attack in the Gaza Strip. An Israeli citizen was killed and three others wounded by fire directed from a passing vehicle. Our correspondent Avi Lifshitz has the initial details:

A short time ago, at approximately 1315 GMT, shots were fired at an Israeli vehicle driving near the Kissufim checkpoint at the entrance to the Gaza Strip. The shots were apparently directed from a passing vehicle which continued driving northward in the direction of Dayr al-Balah. One Israeli was killed from the shots, and three others were wounded, two of them seriously. According to the initial reports, the car from which the shots were fired escaped northward into the Palestinian autonomy area. We should recall that this morning four Israelis were wounded in a similar shooting incident in the same area.

3 Soldiers Wounded by Bomb Near Bethlehem

TA1508042394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Three Israeli soldiers were wounded early this morning by a roadside bomb near El'azar, south of Bethlehem. The bomb went off as the soldiers drove past. Two of the soldiers suffered medium injuries, and one was lightly injured.

Rabin Holds News Conference on Attacks

TA1508072194 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0530 GMT 15 Aug 94

[News conference held by Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, with correspondents at Kissufim checkpoint—live]

[Text] [Rabin] In one the most recent events, an Israeli civilian was killed for the first time since we handed the powers in the Gaza Strip over to the Palestinians. Although four soldiers have been killed since our pullback, this was an attack on a civilian driving between Israel and the Qatif Bloc for work purposes. Thus, the first civilian has been killed, and Israeli civilians have been wounded in shooting and other attacks. We cannot accept this. The basic understanding between us and the Palestinians is that when all the powers are handed over and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] pulls out of all the Palestinian population centers in the Gaza Strip, the Palestinians also assume responsibility for maintaining public order and security on their and our roads. It is true that we are fully responsible for the safety of Israelis in the Strip, but under the circumstances, our ability to pursue, detain, or hunt suspects is diminished. Therefore, the responsibility is theirs.

We know that terrorist attacks cannot always be fully prevented, but we do not see that the Palestinian Authority is making a serious effort to handle those who oppose the agreement, those whose opposition to the agreement is more than political and who try to impede it and to torpedo it through terrorist attacks against Israelis. I am referring to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Islamic Jihad, and to the occasional

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rejectionist front squads. Under these circumstances, we demand that the Palestinian Authority—both its political and defense arms—do its job.

We will continue the talks, but we will reconsider the implementation of everything agreed on in the talks, every issue, on merit. But first and foremost, it is inconceivable that we should continue the process before we ascertain that the Palestinian Authority is making a serious effort to deal with terrorist elements known to be responsible for attacks. Hamas has publicly claimed responsibility for the two attacks yesterday and for earlier attacks. In other cases, the Islamic Jihad or some other body did so. Therefore, it is the Palestinian Authority's responsibility to make a serious effort—which has not been made to date—to deal with these terrorist organizations. This will be the test of the future process. This is how things stand.

The IDF will naturally take steps, some of which have been detailed by the Southern Command commander and some of which have been carried out or will be soon. Our total responsibility for the well-being of Israelis will be met as deemed fit by the appropriate military and defense elements. Now, if you have any questions, please go ahead.

[Qol Yisra'el correspondent Moti Amir] Mr. Prime Minister, will the talks at the Erez checkpoint be held today as scheduled? How will these attacks affect our cooperation with the Palestinian police?

[Rabin] As I said, the talks will be held. At the same time, I reiterate: These talks aim, first and foremost, to achieve an agreement on early empowerment in five spheres in Judaea and Samaria, although we will review the implementation of the agreement in the light of the earnestness of the Palestinian Authority's war against terrorism here in Gaza. I do not expect them to wage this war in areas over which they wield no control, but in Gaza and Jericho, in which they have received powers from us, we expect them to fulfill their share of the agreement. An agreement can be implemented only when both sides honor their commitments.

[IDF Radio correspondent Tziyon Nanus] Last week we heard Faruq Qaddumi's remarks—and he was not the first to say as much—on the issue of abiding by the agreement with Israel, on the extermination of the State of Israel. Now a terrorist attack has been perpetrated. Will any of this affect the future negotiations with the Palestinians and perhaps the opening of the safe passage between Gaza and Jericho?

[Rabin] I would like to draw a clear line between terrorist attacks perpetrated in the Strip, as we saw yesterday, and not for the first time...[pauses] In this context, our demand is clear and absolute. Faruq Qaddumi's statement is grave, and it, too, will spur us to take steps at a later stage, prior to implementing additional stages of the Declaration of Principles.

[Israel Television Channel 1 correspondent Alon Ben-David] Sir, are you saying that no immediate sanctions are to be adopted against the Palestinians following the two terrorist attacks and despite the violations of the agreement and the irresponsibility of the Palestinian police?

[Rabin] Right now, I want to give the Palestinian Authority the opportunity to prove that it is making earnest efforts to combat terrorist elements who do not settle for political opposition to the agreement but resort to terrorism and violence. The negotiations will continue, but right now, there is no commitment to implement the agreement on any particular date. We will consider the implementation in the light of the developments here.

[Nanus] Mr. Prime Minister, what is your message to the Qatif Bloc residents who drive through this junction feeling totally unsafe?

[Rabin] Look, there is no absolute safety in other places either. In Israeli reality, terrorists operate out of Lebanon against the security zone, inside Judaea and Samaria, out of Judaea and Samaria against targets inside sovereign Israel, and here in the Gaza Strip. There is no foolproof safety, not even in locations where we have full military control, such as Judaea and Samaria. Yet we have an agreement here in the Strip, and that agreement has a dual purpose: to free us of the responsibility for the Palestinians' everyday problems on one hand, and to continue maintaining Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip and safeguarding traffic axes, work places, and, naturally, homes on the other.

Having signed the agreement, we expect the Palestinian Authority to do its share in accordance with the contents of the agreement, but even when it earnestly does its share, I do not think either we or they will be able to ensure 100-percent safety. The test, therefore, is the extent of their earnestness, their willingness to take measures and to execute decisions—everything we expected the agreement with the Palestinians to yield.

Attacks To Affect Release of Detainees

TA1408171594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] A senior security official estimated this evening that the terror attacks Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] carried out in the Gaza Strip today will impair the release of Palestinian detainees from Israeli prisons.

Speaking with our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem, the official expressed disappointment with the Palestinian police's inability to deal with Hamas members in the Gaza Strip. According to him, the heads of the Palestinian police and security services, Amin al-Hindi and Muhammad Dahlan, do not do enough to prevent terror attacks within the autonomy area. Today's attacks in which an Israeli citizen was killed and several injured

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are very grave, the official said, and the political echelons have already made it clear to the heads of the autonomy that the Israeli public opinion will be unable to tolerate attacks against Israelis in the autonomy areas.

Hamas in the Gaza Strip assumed responsibility over this attack as well.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT adds: "In the wake of the two attacks in the Gaza Strip today, opposition members are calling on the government to immediately stop the talks with the PLO. Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan called on the government to instruct the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to enter the Strip and search for the Kissufim area murderers. The Moledet Movement demands that the government immediately stop the exit of Gaza Arabs to work in Israel."]

New Security Roads in Territories; IDF To 'Beef Up' in Qatif

TA1408184494 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur today authorized the paving of new security roads in the territories at the cost of 22 million shekels. Following the Qatif Bloc events, Gur says that the PLO is not responsible for the attacks, and that the open passage will commence tomorrow as planned. Our correspondent Yosi 'En-Dor asked him about the security situation of Qatif Bloc settlers:

[Begin recording] ['En-Dor] Following the three recent attacks, can the Qatif Bloc settlers really feel safe?

[Gur] I do not believe the recent attacks constitute a drastic change in their situation. They experienced difficult days and I hope they will not have to continue doing so. We will do everything possible to prevent this. [end recording]

Security sources today warned about an emerging trend of turning Jerusalem into a main target for terrorist attacks.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 14 August adds: "Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq this evening approved the request of the IDF's (Israel Defense Forces) Southern Command to beef up the IDF manpower occupied in routine security duties in the Qatif Bloc region. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports the manpower increase will go into effect immediately."]

Attacks Affect Gaza-Jericho 'Safe Passage' Routes

Details of Routes

TA1408140294 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Aug 94 p A3

[Report by Re'uven Shapira]

[Text] The Cairo agreement designated four "safe-passage" traffic routes between Gaza and Jericho. The police and the defense establishment have decided on routes that will reduce the transit of Palestinian vehicles and passengers through densely populated Israeli zones as far as possible. The routes are as follow:

The first route is from the Erez checkpoint to Ashqelon, Masmiyah, Latrun, Giv'at Ze'ev, the Jerusalem-Jericho road. The second route: from the Erez checkpoint to Ashqelon, the Qiryat Gat road, Bet Guvrin, the Trans-Judaea highway, Tarqumiyah, Bethlehem, the Jericho-Jerusalem road. Another route runs from the Erez checkpoint to Yad Mordekhay, Netivot, Bet Qama, Lehavim, the Shoqet junction, the Beersheba highway, Hebron, Bethlehem, the Jerusalem- Jericho road. The fourth route runs from the Erez checkpoint on to Yad Mordekhay, Netivot, Bet Qama, Lehavim, the Shoqet junction, 'Arad, Zohar, Jericho.

According to the plan, one route will be active each day. The route will change every day or two, as the police see fit, depending on security and operational constraints. Palestinians without a permit to enter Israel will be also permitted to use the "safe passage" that will link the two parts of the self-rule. At the same time, the authorities will scrupulously inspect both vehicles and people exiting the self-rule territory to the safe passage.

Subject to security considerations, some Palestinians will not be permitted to exit self-rule areas or use the safe passage. Any Palestinian vehicle planning to use the safe passage will have to submit a request two days prior to the planned trip. The vehicle owner will have to present documents showing that the vehicle was insured and in proper mechanical condition, and to comply with certain requirements.

When the vehicle exits the self-rule area into the safe passage, its license number, time of exit, and the expected time of arrival at its destination will be noted down. A special label will be pasted on the car's windshield; the color and shape of the label will change daily. The label will be detached and the time will be registered upon the vehicle's arrival.

The data on the vehicle's departure and arrival will be entered in a constantly updated on-line computer system. In that way, the Palestinian vehicles will be under constant supervision. The authorities expect to be able to use computer terminals to obtain information about any vehicle moving through the safe passage at any given time, even without employing police patrol vans on the traffic routes. The driver of a car that does not comply with the terms and timetable will have to explain the delay. The last exit hour into the safe passage will 1600 during the summer and 1500 in winter.

Palestinians who have no car will be able to move between the self-rule areas aboard marked and registered buses and cabs. A special Border Police command, headed by Chief Superintendent Shlomi Qa'tabi, will be

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in charge of the security arrangements in the safe passage. Border Police cars, patrol vans, and checkpoints manned by policemen will supervise the safe passage route.

Since the inspection and registration of Palestinians entering and exiting self-rule territories lies within the responsibility of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], which is sovereign in the area, a computer infrastructure and wireless and on-line communication network has been established between the IDF, the police, and Border Police.

Opening of Routes Postponed

TA1508075694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] The opening of the safe passage between Gaza and Jericho has been postponed as a result of the attacks at Kissufim Junction. The four passage routes were scheduled to be officially opened today, but a senior defense source told our correspondent that the opening has been put off to a later date.

The police minister has announced that it is impossible to set a date for the opening of the Gaza-Jericho safe passage at this time. It all depends on the Palestinians and their ability to honor the commitments they made in the Cairo agreement, Minister Moshe Shahal said. He added that the Palestinians are not ready to use the safe passage yet. He made these remarks in a conversation with our correspondent Arye Shor in the course of a tour of an energy installation in southern Israel, in the company of President 'Ezer Weizman.

Referring to the negotiations on the release of Palestinian prisoners, Minister Shahal said Israel is meticulously checking out the background of and offenses committed by each individual prisoner whose release the PLO has requested.

Rabin on Terrorism, Iraqi Sanctions, Syrian Track

TA1408160294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this evening downplayed the optimism which emanated from remarks he made earlier today regarding the level of terrorist activity. Rabin says that the war against terrorism is an ongoing war against those who seek to harm the peace process. Mr. Rabin is currently touring Bedouin settlements in the Yisra'el Valley. Our correspondent Nati Zilberman reports:

[Begin recording] [Zilberman] Some people interpreted Mr. Rabin's remarks today on progress in the negotiations with Syria as registering optimism. This afternoon Rabin took pains to clarify his remarks:

[Rabin] This is an inaccurate assessment. I was not being overly optimistic. I did voice a belief we will make progress toward peace with Syria as well. It will take longer, there will be more difficulties, it will not happen tomorrow morning.

[Zilberman] Referring to the Iraqi issue, Rabin said Israel has received no message and has no intention of opening negotiations with Baghdad. On the contrary, Rabin emphasized that Israel will continue supporting the U.S. policy against Iraq and Iran.

[Rabin] We support President Clinton's dual containment policy against Iran and Iraq. We support the policy of sanctions against Iraq aimed at causing it to change its policy. The Israeli Government has not authorized anybody to maintain contacts with Iraq. We will not make the stupid mistake of not supporting the United States' and other progressive countries' efforts to force Iraq into changing its policy. Consequently nobody was authorized to maintain contacts with Iraq.

[Zilberman] Rabin, who is visiting the Bedouin settlements in Israel, took the opportunity to congratulate the security forces for apprehending the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squad in Jerusalem. Rabin said it is impossible to prevent all terrorist attacks, but at the same time there is a downward trend in the number of attacks, albeit an insufficient trend. [end recording]

Rabin: Process in Question If Terror Continues

TA1508051794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe on 14 August; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Menashe] Prime Minister and Defense Minister Rabin, after yesterday's terrorist attacks in the Gaza Strip, it looks like that the Palestinian police is incapable of preventing shooting attacks.

[Rabin] The first issue I raised in the meeting with 'Arafat at the Erez checkpoint last Wednesday [10 August] was Palestinian control of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terror—I am not referring to political control—in the Gaza Strip. Today we witnessed two very serious terrorist attacks—one in the morning and another this afternoon—and we paid a very heavy price.

I believe we should continue the negotiations with the Palestinians, but at the same time, if the Palestinians fail to display an ability to control the terrorist activities of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad in the Strip, we will have to reconsider the extent to which we will implement the results of the early empowerment negotiations and other spheres. We cannot accept a situation in which the Palestinian side fails to meet its commitment to maintain peace and security or at least to make a serious effort to significantly reduce the danger, while we pursue the process as if nothing happened.

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[Menashe] Do you think 'Arafat is having difficulty implementing the agreement?

[Rabin] I am not interested in details. As far as I am concerned, the agreement stipulates that he must maintain law and order and ensure public safety in Gaza and Jericho, although Gaza is the problem at the moment. In the recent period, terror has continued, although the number of casualties was not high, and we feel that no serious effort has been made to combat. I do not expect him to provide foolproof security, but I do expect the Palestinians to do one thing: to fully exhaust their capability to prevent terror. If they are unable to do that, the implementation of the fruits of the negotiations due to begin tomorrow and to continue the day after will be in question. If he is unable to do his share now, why continue by implementing things he may be unable to do later?

[Menashe] Are IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops unable to prevent shooting attacks because of the agreement?

[Rabin] The capability of the IDF capability is limited. In principle, the agreement stipulates that the IDF defends the settlements and a number of traffic axes, but it does not have the same freedom of action it has in Jerusalem or al-Ram, where it operated last weekend. The entire agreement is based on the concept that the Palestinians, through their police, their security forces, should fight the perpetrators of terrorist attacks—primarily Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, but others as well. If they cannot do it, the basis of the entire process is in question.

Rabin on Terror, Hebron, Talks With Syria, Jordan

TA1508133694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Speaking today at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that over the past several months, the Fatah Hawks have murdered 11 Palestinian collaborators while interrogating them. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the prime minister also disclosed that the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] squad that murdered Shahar Simani received $9,000 from the man who recruited the squad members.

Regarding the Cave of the Patriarchs, Mr. Rabin said there will be no change in the status quo and that Israel reserves comprehensive and exclusive responsibility for all the security- related issues. Rabin refused to say when the cave will reopen.

Regarding the negotiations with Jordan, he said that the border demarcation discussions will take a long time. The fact that Jordan refuses to discuss the demarcation of the segment of the border from the Dead Sea and the Bet She'an Valley will delay the signing of the peace treaty, he said.

Speaking on the negotiations with Syria, the prime minister said that there are several positive signals, as he put it. At the same time, he does not see that there is a significant change in the stands and the gaps between them.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1300 GMT on 15 August adds: "Major General Dani Yatom, the prime minister's military secretary, told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that recently, several IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers have managed in the last minute to escape Hamas men who attempted to kidnap them. According to him, the mission of the Hamas squad that was eliminated in Jerusalem was to kidnap soldiers, murder and bury them, and conduct negotiations on the release of captured Hamas men."]

[The report adds that Rabin further told the Knesset committee that "recently, sevedal Western countries have extended the credit they have been giving Iran and Iraq, which made the two countries richer by billions of dollars. According to the prime minister, the intelligence communities of the Western countries support the Israeli and U.S. stand that the two countries should be restricted, but the political echelons do the opposite for economic considerations. According to the prime minister, tension currently prevails between the United States and several European countries over this issue."]

Authorities Discuss Possible Contacts With Iraq

Iraqi Approaches Detailed

TA1208183294 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Studio report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik]

[Text] Less than two months ago, Jerusalem decisionmakers received a report from New York: Gad Ya'aqobi, Israeli ambassador to the United Nations, was asking for instructions in the wake of approaches by the ambassadors of two UN Security Council members—one of which was Morocco—on behalf of a leading Iraqi personality. Now that Israel has signed an agreement with the Palestinians, Baghdad no longer views it as an enemy, the Iraqi personality sought to inform Israel. Now Saddam Husayn would like to settle his country's relations with Israel and launch a dialogue. It was easy to guess who was sending the message, because Ya'aqobi's report noted that only three days earlier, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz [title as heard] had departed New York. Jerusalem instructed Ya'aqobi not to react or forge any contacts.

Prior to that message, only hints and signals had been received. They came from businessmen and low-ranking Iraqis. The feelers and Baghdad's relatively conciliatory public statements, however, implied that Israel can, if it wants to. Saddam, on his part, is interested in rapprochement, in genuine ties similar to those of his former

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supporters, 'Arafat and Husayn. What the Iraqi president wants above all is, of course, to break the United States' heart and to speed up the end of the isolation and the strict sanctions.

Yet even if Israel was willing to forget the Scuds, the Americans have not forgotten the Gulf war and Saddam's ambitions. At present, the United States is the only country preventing the United Nations from lifting the sanctions against Iraq, and it is firmly prohibiting any Israeli ties with the Iraqis. The Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry obey the Americans scrupulously. Yet quite a few people in Israel believe the Americans are mistaken, although these people will not admit as much in public. In their opinion, an attempt should be made to neutralize Iraq, primarily in order to isolate its neighbor, Iran, which is considered the most formidable threat to Israel. Knowledgeable sources say that Ministers Shahal and Ben-Eli'ezer, who are members of the Ministerial Committee on National Security Affairs, are among those who support the contacts. They have probably received many signals from Iraqi Jews throughout the world. As far as is known, President 'Ezer Weizman is in favor of taking advantage of any tip leading to peace with Iraq, this formidable enemy.

Ben-Eli'ezer Denies Official Ties

TA1308144794 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0700 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Studio interview with Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer by 'Adi Talmor on the weekly "In the Current Situation" program—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Talmor] Recent reports have mentioned Iraq. Have there been any contacts, either roundabout or direct, between Israel and Iraq?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I would say unequivocally: No. But then, no one can ignore Iraq as a country, as a geostrategically important country.

[Talmor] A regional power?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] Definitely. As a country, it cannot be ignored. The problem is that the international community has to deal with its leader, who was close to exterminating an entire nation. I am speaking about....

[Talmor, interrupting] The question is whether that same leader and that leadership, which would probably like to remain in power, has recently initiated and held any contacts with Israel.

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I will just mention the Iraqi reaction yesterday to the Jordanian information minister's declaration that Iraq should at least be invited to the international talks on water, environment, and other issues. In reaction, the Iraqis issued a furious statement to the effect that no one has been authorized to speak on its behalf, and that it is still an independent country with its own mind.

[Talmor] Don't you know that some things are said for appearances sake, that some things are done behind the scenes?

[Ben-Eli'ezer] I cannot profess that Iraqi expatriates living in London have never met with visiting Iraqis, and neither can I claim to know that some third- or fourth-level Israeli official or officials—no offense meant—did not exchange a word or two with Iraqis at some party. But if one asks whether that means we are holding contacts or that contacts have been initiated, then the answer is negative. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Envoy Reportedly Supports Oslo Pact

TA1308190894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Members of the Israeli legation at the United Nations have confirmed that about three months ago, Ambassador Gad Ya'aqobi sent in a report that a senior Iraqi diplomat had in private conversations expressed support for the Oslo agreement. Nonetheless, Iraq is not interested in launching actual peace talks. [passage omitted]

Rabin: No Authorization for Contacts

TA1408081194 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Aug 94 p A1

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher last week that Israel "will not acknowledge any Iraqi or Iranian approaches."

Rabin said yesterday that "we support Clinton's dual containment policy against Iraq and Iran. We support the U.S. position regarding sanctions against Iraq. We do not plan to allow Iraqi dictator Saddam Husayn to sidestep the demands of the international community. For that reason, no Israeli element, either official or unofficial, has been authorized to hold contacts with Iraq." Moreover, Rabin rejected the notion that Israel should draw closer to Iraq in order to curb the impact of its rival, Iran. [passage omitted]

Political sources in Jerusalem said yesterday that last week, Israel received an extremely clear message, conveyed on an unrelated track, regarding Iraq's desire to forge a direct dialogue with Israel. Similar messages have reached Israel through various channels in recent months.

The United States has demanded that Israel forge no contacts with Iraq. Several months ago, the Americans learned that Uri Lubrani, within the context of his involvement in the Israeli oil sphere, met with Arab businessmen representing Iraq. Following that, the Americans conveyed a sharp protest to Rabin.

Senior analysts have recently advised Rabin that Saddam Husayn's hostile attitude toward Israel and the

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peace process has not changed and that the signals from Iraq must not be taken seriously. According to the analysts, these signals should be seen in the context of Iraqi efforts to secure the termination of the international sanctions. [passage omitted]

Shlomo Shamir adds: Yesterday, Avner Tavori, spokesman for the Israeli legation at the United Nations, denied that Ambassador Gad Ya'aqobi had informed the Foreign Ministry of a willingness on the part of Iraq to join the peace process. According to Tavori, Ya'aqobi reported three months ago that he had learned that a senior Iraqi diplomat voiced support for the Israeli-PLO agreement in private conversations.

Beilin on Talks With Syria, Contacts With Iraq

TA1208132894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Shalom Oren; place not given—live]

[Text] [Oren] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin is on the line. Good day, sir.

[Beilin] A good day to you, too.

[Oren] Are you more worried by the Likud views or by the controversies within Labor regarding the arrangements for the Golan Heights?

[Beilin] I am not worried by either. I think the Likud views matter, and they should be taken into account, but when a decision is eventually made and an agreement is initialed, it will be presented for the entire public's approval, either through a referendum or elections. Therefore, although the public debate and the recent statements are important, they will not determine whether the decision will be made through elections or a referendum. They can influence the referendum itself, of course, but that is another story. What I find hard to understand is how people in the Likud can speak out against the international agreement that, I hope, will be signed and vow to violate it. This is really beyond my comprehension.

[Oren] This is the problem when regimes lack continuity.

[Beilin] It is indeed a serious problem, and people making such observations may well find that their remarks can boomerang back at them. I hope that the Likud officials' remarks were made nonchalantly, that they did not mean them too seriously, although I think that such utterances per se are an unacceptable political statement.

[Oren] What do such statements indicate?

[Beilin] I think they simply reflect recklessness. I truly respect the stand of every peace opponent who supports his statements with various reasons and arguments; I can disagree with him, but I can both respect him and defend his right to fight for his stand. Yet there is a vast and very dangerous distance between that and saying that they would not abide by a majority decision or by the Israeli Government's signature. This is liable to generate undemocratic movements, God forbid, and to strengthen undemocratic elements, which exist in any society.

[Oren] Yosi Beilin, do you believe—as many Israelis do—that the agreement with Syria has been signed already and that the sides are now merely discussing details, such as the duration and depth of the withdrawal.

[Beilin] I would say the following: The agreement with Syria has not been signed yet, of course, and there are still numerous differences between the two sides' stands and numerous problems we will have to solve. Nonetheless, contrary to the very complex permanent arrangement with the Palestinians, whose final shape we cannot project at this time, the arrangement with Syria will include withdrawal on the Golan and peace as the central components, in addition to the security arrangements on which we will have to insist. The exact depth of the withdrawal and the exact components of normalization have not been finalized as yet, but right now, it is definitely easier to outline the arrangement that is likely with Syria than the permanent arrangement with the Palestinians.

[Oren] Do you think there has been satisfactory progress with Syria or is the situation still one of a stalemate, as some reports have indicated?

[Beilin] It is definitely not a stalemate. There has been progress. I would like it to be faster, but it exists nonetheless, and I think even greater progress will be achieved by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's next visit to the region. I think that after many years of stalemate, we and the Syrians have a precedent for a common denominator, and I find it very hard to believe that we will be unable to eventually achieve peace on the basis of this common denominator. I believe we are close to it.

[Oren] A year ago, Israelis argued about withdrawal from the Golan Heights in itself, while now the argument is only about the depth of withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Do you think this indicates a shift in public opinion?

[Beilin] I have no doubt that public opinion in Israel has undergone a change in the wake of the agreement with the PLO and the agreement with Jordan. People realize that such agreements greatly enhance Israel's standing, that they are attainable, that the adversary—while being sometimes more and sometimes less likable—is both willing and able to make up with us and even to do so with enthusiasm. In my opinion, this situation will lead to a comprehensive agreement which will naturally entail a price—and we must not ignore the price—as well as numerous benefits.

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[Oren] Do you believe the reports, or the trickles of reports, published in the past few weeks about various contacts with Iraq to be accidental or intentional?

[Beilin] I do not know whether they are intentional, and if they are, who is behind them. All I can say is this: As long as the U.S. dual containment policy against Iran and Iraq remains in force, it is a high-priority Israeli interest to support it and to persuade any country we can to support it as well. Unfortunately, not many countries support it. We would not dream of persuading others to boycott Iraq while maintaining any contacts whatsoever with it. Our policy on this issue is therefore unequivocal: As long as Iraq does not comply with the UN demands, and as long as sanctions against it remain valid, we will not, God forbid, be the ones to violate them.

[Oren] Yes, but perhaps a package deal with the Americans and the rest of the world is possible: Everyone will act in unison, and it will then be over.

[Beilin] I assume that some day we will have peace relations with Iraq, too, but it is definitely not on the agenda at the moment—certainly not as an independent Israeli move. If Iraq accedes to the international demands with regard to the inspection of its weapons, and if the entire world finds this acceptable, we will not be the last to forge ties with Iraq, if Iraq is interested.

[Oren] In any case, for some reason the Israeli public does not think that an agreement with Iraq is totally out of the question or pure fantasy.

[Beilin] I admit that after all that has happened here, it is hard to define anything as fantasy. That is why I will not be surprised even if we achieve diplomatic relations with every member of the Arab League, something I hope will not take too long. I believe that peace with our neighbors is the first stage, however, and I hope it will come to pass within the next year.

[Oren] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, thank you very much.

[Beilin] Thank you.

Shahal on 'Terrorist' Squad, Iraqi Contacts

TA1408082694 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Police Minister Moshe Shahal by Ya'el Dan and Mikha Friedman; place not given—live]

[Text] [Dan] Before discussing the capture of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] squad in Jerusalem, please update us on the searches for the missing terrorist.

[Shahal] The searches are being carried out in a joint operation by the police and security services. The action is based on intelligence information. The search is not taking place only where the incident took place; it is broader in scope. I hope we will be able to capture him within a short time.

[Friedman] Is the identity of the terrorist known?

[Shahal] Definitely.

[Dan] Are the searches being carried out in cooperation with the Palestinian police?

[Shahal] No, we assume that he can still be found within the area under our control, and we do not need the help of the Palestinian police for that.

[Friedman] As far as you know, do similar squads exist?

[Shahal] We assume so. I do not think this is the only squad. It was a very dangerous squad, which kidnapped soldiers. We know about the kidnapping and murder of two soldiers—Shahal Simani and Arye Frenkeltal—and that it had planned to kidnap other soldiers and policeman, but failed. The capture of the squad is undoubtedly a very serious achievement, because it was an armed, trained, and daring squad, which operated in quite a sophisticated manner.

[Dan] One of the issues worrying us is that the encounter with the squad was totally accidental and might have ended differently, perhaps following the planned attack against the guards at Ari'el Sharon's home.

[Shahal] First, we are pleased that they were encountered, but the clash was not coincidental. The deployment of the Israel Police, the Border Police, and the special police units in Jerusalem is the outcome of a decision made a long time. I think the Israel Police has acted admirably. Sooner or later, the squad would have been captured. I have no doubt that the security forces—the police, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], and the security services—are operating at an exceptionally high level. As I follow their performance closely, I can only praise the level, determination, and sophistication of the security forces in capturing these squads.

[Friedman] Mr. Shahal, with your permission I would like to put to you a few questions about Iraq, which made headlines over the weekend. You are known as a supporter of the Iraqi option. Can you confirm that there were recent Israeli-Iraqi contacts to ascertain whether it is possible to thaw relations with Baghdad?

[Shahal] If there were feelers, they were at a very low level. I do not know of such appeals. I can only say that Iraq is repeating the methods it constantly used in the past. When it needed to change its image in the United States, it found it necessary to modify its statements about Israel in the belief that we have an impact on the U.S. Administration.

[Dan] Do you support contacts with Iraq at this time?

[Shahal] In my view, without the consent of the United States, we will not be able to do anything. I am in favor

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of the government or the Ministerial Committee on National Security Affairs looking into the issue an eye to assessing future risks, especially from Iran. There is a saying in the Middle East: The enemy of my enemy is my friend. I do not think we should totally rule out or reject it. There must be at least a serious discussion on the issue, but it must be done with U.S. consent. We cannot do anything unilaterally, without coordination with the United States.

[Friedman] Perhaps it is inappropriate that the United States always seems to hold the key whenever Israel wants to lower the threshold of hostility toward it in a certain country. I recall North Korea, with which the United States suddenly made a deal over the weekend. When Israel, however, wanted to approach the North Koreans to prevent arms deliveries to Iraq and Syria, the Americans imposed a veto. Does that seem right to you?

[Shahal] Look, no policy is totally isolated from international coordination, particularly in our era, which I consider the era of international legitimacy. In the North Korean case, U.S. action prevented a flow of arms from North Korea to Iran and Syria. With Iraq, the main aim of the entire world, led by the United States, is to prevent Iraq's procurement of sophisticated arms, which would endanger us. There is no doubt that the risk of an Iranian nuclear option is behind all our thoughts about the future. Nothing can be done without the United States. Israel cannot afford to cut itself off from coordination with the United States. That does not mean we do not have an independent position or that we cannot express our thoughts and reservations regarding an Iraqi option, if it exists. At this stage, in my view, there is no real Iraqi option for rapprochement with Israel. I believe it is mere tactics to improve Iraq's status without paying any price that would involve a serious change in its position toward Israel and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Rabin: 'Faint Signs' From Syria, No Iraqi Contacts

TA1408113494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told the cabinet meeting today that there are some faint signs pointing to Syria's desire to advance in the negotiations. The prime minister referred to four negotiating components: the depth of the withdrawal, the timetable for withdrawal, the link between withdrawal and normalization in Syria's attitude toward Israel, and the security arrangements.

Other ministers also referred to a positive development in the Syrian position. The U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will return to the region in early October to further Israeli-Syrian negotiations. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the prime minister made it clear at the cabinet meeting that there are no contacts with either Iraq or Iran and that all the talk on the matter is unfounded.

Before the cabinet meeting, Yitzhaq Rabin held consultations in anticipation of the resumption of negotiations with the Palestinians at Erez Junction tomorrow and the meeting of the Supreme Liaison Committee in Alexandria on Wednesday. Minister Yosi Sarid, a member of the liaison committee, believes that the issues linked to early empowerment will be clarified by the end of the week.

Peres Holds 'Very Useful' Talks With PNA Official

TA1208181094 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Report by Shlomo Ganor]

[Text] A meeting was held today in Tel Aviv between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Ahmad Quray', member of the Palestinian [National] Authority [PNA]. Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir also attended the meeting, in which it was agreed that Israel and the Palestinian Authority will work together to surmount the obstacles impeding the arrival of financial aid from the donor countries to the self-rule authority. Our political affairs correspondent Shlomo Ganor points out that one of the problems preventing the transfer of powers to the Palestinian Authority concerns the establishment of a tax collection apparatus:

[Begin recording] [Quray'] Undoubtedly, this was a useful meeting, as usual. We reviewed the difficulties the Palestinian Authority is facing on all levels, whether it concern the financing of projects that will bring about changes on the ground and create job opportunities, the measures for completing the early empowerment talks and the interim agreement, or economic cooperation as stipulated in the Declaration of Principles. All these issues were reviewed unofficially. I believe the meeting was very useful and good.

[Ganor] What are the solutions you envisage?

[Quray'] I believe we must maintain the momentum of this process.

[Ganor] How does the Palestinian Authority intend to overcome the technical difficulties involved in receiving aid from the donor countries?

[Quray'] I believe the technical difficulties are about to be resolved once and for all. For example, with regard to the expenditures of the Palestinian administration, I believe this issue is being taken care of, especially after the first installment covering the Palestinian administration's budget deficit was transferred. As long as the process of covering these expenditures continues, the transfers will continue. We are now trying to reach full agreement on the infrastructure projects, including the so-called emergency project, amounting to some $58 million, and the investment project in the infrastructure, amounting to some $166 million. The total sum of these two projects is approximately $224 million. We hope

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that on the 15th or 16th [not further specified], we will begin issuing tenders in the local newspapers for contractors and contracting companies to submit their offers so that we can begin the process of implementation. If this process begins, I believe there will be no problem.

[Ganor] What about coordination with Israel?

[Quray'] There is good and ongoing coordination, whether within the framework of the advisory group and the donor countries group or on the level of our continuing ties. [end recording]

Beilin: 2-Year Golan Withdrawal Plan Discussed

TA1208191194 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin today confirmed that a plan speaking of full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights within two years has been discussed. The publication of the U.S. compromise plan on this program yesterday has already spurred a heated political dispute. The Likud and Tzomet today demanded that the prime minister unveil every document pertaining to a withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen tonight reported from the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv:

[Begin recording] [Rosen] Sources in the Prime Minister's bureau whom we asked yesterday and today about the plan for full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan within two years replied that no such thing exists. [passage omitted]

The compromise plan proposes a two-year withdrawal, thereby bridging Rabin's demand for four years and al-Asad's for one and, more importantly, acceding with al-Asad's demand that the Israeli withdrawal be completed before the next Israeli elections in 1996. Al-Asad is apprehensive, and the Likud's reaction to yesterday's report may explain his fears:

[Likud Knesset faction chairman Moshe Qatzav] It is not just a U.S. formula; these are Israeli proposals conveyed for the Syrian president's perusal. In fact, the Israeli proposals agree to full withdrawal from the Golan Heights, and right now the disagreement between Israel and Syria revolves around normalization dates.

I think if the Likud comes to power, we will be unable, without the people's approval, to honor the commitments Rabin will have given the Syrian president with regard to the Golan Heights.

[Rosen] Many senior political elements with whom we spoke today were ready to confirm that the emerging plan speaks of full and accelerated Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. None of them were ready to be identified by name. The only one willing to hint at the plan was Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin:

[Beilin] No specific proposal is being specifically discussed. There are several proposals, and that is naturally one of them. We will have to discuss and eventually to decide on one of them. [passage omitted] [end recording]

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'Source' on Syrian-Israeli Talks, Country's Stance

MM1208151494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Aug 94 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Lebanon Would Reject a Declaration of Principles Even If Syria Accepted"]

[Excerpt] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—A high-ranking Lebanese authoritative source has told AL-HAYAH that it is too early to talk about formation of a joint military committee to discuss Israeli withdrawal following the positive atmosphere resulting from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's latest tour of the region, but the information Lebanon has about his recent talks confirms that there was a serious discussion of details and not just principles.

The source said that the information was passed to the Lebanese side by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' when he visited B'abda palace the day before yesterday, Wednesday, and delivered to President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri a message from President Hafiz al-Asad, and by U.S. Ambassador in Beirut Mark Hambley who delivered a message to them from Christopher on his talks in Israel and Syria. The information confirmed to the Lebanese side that discussions were on the achievement of a full agreement that would cover principles and details, not just a declaration of principles.

The source told AL-HAYAH that the information confirms the soundness of the Lebanese and Syrian position, agreed between them a long time ago, rejecting an agreement confined only to a declaration of principles. He added that the information from the Syrian and the U.S. sides was identical on that and indicated that details were discussed. He said that Damascus is treating cautiously what Christopher conveyed to it from Israel about new positions on withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon, pending the achievement of a comprehensive agreement.

He said that Minister al-Shar"s statements were clear and specific reflecting the new atmosphere whether in relation to withdrawal, security arrangements, calming the situation in the south, or peace measures. He said they were "preconsidered statements and one should read them carefully to understand what is happening."

The source confirmed that there were also detailed discussions about the Lebanese track but he denied knowing of any written document submitted by Damascus or Washington on what the Syrians and the Americans described as new and serious ideas for the Lebanese and Syrian tracks. He said that, in his view, what the Americans did was convey some ideas orally to the Syrians and the Israelis but these ideas are ultimately bound to be written down on paper.

The source reaffirmed that Lebanon would not only not agree to sign a declaration of principles, because it insists on settlement of all details in any agreement with Israel, but also would not agree to sign any agreement before Syria, even if Syria agreed to Lebanon signing before it. He said that "Prime Minister al-Hariri had previously informed President al-Asad of that, and President al-Hirawi confirmed that position to him."

The source said that "some people underrate the Lebanese position but we are determined to reject negotiation on a declaration of principles even if Syria accepted it, although it insists on the same position so far. The reason is that we stand to lose most from a mere declaration of principles because we are the party which Israel would blackmail later on in connection with the implementation of any agreement, and we cannot tolerate that."

Ministerial sources have told AL-HAYAH that one of the causes of the positive atmosphere prevailing after Christopher's visit is that he conveyed an Israeli willingness to accept a five-year timetable for withdrawal from the Golan, whereas there had previously been an insistence on eight years. Furthermore, the impression now is that even the five-year period can be negotiated downward. Furthermore, Christopher brought U.S. confirmation that Israel was talking about full withdrawal from the Golan and the south and that its position would not be restricted to just acknowledgement of Syrian sovereignty over the Golan as Israeli officials used to say in the past. [passage omitted]

Buwayz Expects Progress Toward Peace by Year End

NC1308130994 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has ruled out any geographical or political alterations in the Middle East as a result of the ongoing peace negotiations. Speaking on Voice of Lebanon's Saturday Salon program today, he accused those who advocate withdrawal from the negotiations of seeking to erase Lebanon's character.

Buwayz pointed out that tangible progress in the peace talks is possible in the next five months.

Commenting on whether regional geographical or political alterations are likely, he stated:

[Begin Buwayz recording] I definitely believe that no change will be introduced into this region's political geography. There will be no geographical alterations. This peace basically seeks to consolidate the existing countries' current geography and politics. There is no scheme to reorganize or repartition the region. There is no plan to replace existing regimes or carry out annexations and secessions. We saw a demonstration of this fact during the Gulf war. We saw that after all of Kuwait was rapidly occupied, a UN resolution was adopted to restore Kuwait. This resolution was then implemented with the help of huge military power. Until this moment, I believe there is no inclination to make territorial

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changes or to alter the status quo that came into being after World War II. [end recording]

Responding to calls to withdraw from the negotiations, he said:

[Begin Buwayz recording] I wish to state clearly that those who urge Lebanon to withdraw from the peace talks, those who declare that they were originally against Lebanon's joining the negotiations, and those who try to overshadow Lebanon's role in them, wish to ruin Lebanon, eliminate it from the regional equation, and abolish its character. Lebanon is concerned with regaining its occupied territories. It is an Arab country. We must not be considered Arabs only in times of distress and non-Arabs in good times. We must not be considered Arabs only when sacrifices are needed but stop being Arabs when we should have the opportunity to prove ourselves and share in the decisionmaking. We are either Arabs or non-Arabs all the time. [end recording]

The foreign minister then responded to a question by [news director] Wardah on the developments of the peace process.

[Begin recording] [Wardah] Minister, some official Lebanese circles are very optimistic that the Lebanese-Syrian-Israeli talks will have a happy ending towards the end of 1994 at the latest. They began saying this after U.S. Secretary of State Christopher's recent regional trip and his relay of a certain message. Other circles point out that Christopher's latest tour was to explore the various parties' intentions prior to resuming the talks. What does the Lebanese foreign minister have to say about this? How do you assess Christopher's recent visit? Of course you commented on it before, but we would like to hear your assessment in light of the two opinions mentioned above.

[Buwayz] The peace process has already made some psychological, practical, legal, and logical strides. It has an unprecedentedly good chance of achieving peace. It needs some more time. It is logical to say that by the end of 1994 the process will reach an advanced stage. I am speaking carefully. It is wrong to say that everything will be settled by the end of the year. I am making modest claims but they are more promising than before. The prospect of making essential, serious, and tangible progress toward peace in the next four or five months exists. [end recording]

Al-Hariri Addresses Protesters on South Issue

NC1208182194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Responding to a call by the Follow-Up Committee for the Support of Detainees Held in Israeli Jails, the citizens of Yuhmur, Arnun, and Dayr al-Zahrani staged a sit-in at the Press Association headquarters this morning.

Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri; presidential Press Adviser Mayy Kahhalah; several ministers; Chamber of Deputies members; His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council; popular delegations; and representatives of the political parties, nationalist forces, unions, and associations attended the sit-in. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister al-Hariri delivered a speech, saying:

[Begin al-Hariri recording] I came here to the Press Association to tell everyone in the Arab region and the world about Israel's killing of civilians, its demolition of innocent citizens' houses, and its siege on civilians thus preventing water, food, and medicine supplies from reaching them. Today's newspapers report that some children are suffering from typhoid as a result of the water shortage. While Israel is doing this, it professes to defend human rights and democracy. All its claims are lies. The Israelis do not honor human rights or respect human or democratic values. They have active media, however, and know how to talk and present their cause to the world. We do not know how to present our cause properly. I believe that the official and private media must do their best to present the true situation in the south. Another equally important issue concerns the prisoners [in Israeli jails]. The state has not forgotten them but the world's conscience has apparently forgotten them. The state will continue to devote sufficient attention to this issue. Indeed it will make further efforts. It will extend direct assistance to the prisoners' families and to those prisoners who are released. The state will extend every possible aid to them to make them feel that they are not ordinary citizens but exceptional people who have given much to their country. At the same time, other citizens did not perhaps have the opportunity to give as much. [applause]

The government has made numerous contacts concerning the Yuhmur issue. We still do not know what will happen but we are devoting a lot of effort to the issue. We might reach a solution but we might not. At any rate, if we find a solution, the people's rights will be restored. If we do not find a solution, we all will continue to express solidarity with the Yuhmur and Arnun citizens and our kinsfolk in the south, both those who still reside there or are now outside the area. It is not only Yuhmur and Arnun that are paying a price but all the southern villages.

This is our destiny. Lebanon and Syria are committed to a comprehensive solution to the crisis; the full restoration of the occupied territories; and establishing regional peace on clear, frank, and just foundations.

If Israel is earnest about this, peace might come to the region. If it is not earnest and wants to continue occupying the territories and exercising regional hegemony, this means peace is very far away. The decision is Israel's; the ball is in its court.

The Arabs have clearly demonstrated that they are advocates of peace, but a stable, dignified peace that restores our territories.

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I hope that the issue of the south will be solved. The citizens of the south have made many sacrifices. We cannot hold their dignity or the blood they sacrificed cheaply. Thank you. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Shiite Leader Assails U.S. for Israeli Air Raid

NC1408170494 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Excerpt] The people of Dayr al-Zahrani held a memorial service today marking the passing of one week after the Israeli air raid on the town, which left a number of people dead. Representatives of the prime minister and speaker of the Chamber of Deputies attended the service. Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, the Higher Islamic Shiite Council chairman, and a number of key political and religious figures also attended.

Speaking at the service, Shaykh Shams al-Din addressed himself to President Clinton and his administration, saying: The Dayr al-Zahrani crime pained us, but it will not break us nor the political will of the people, government, and resistance against all forms of occupation. He said that the United Nations and its institutions exercise tyranny. He stressed that the leadership in Lebanon is rallying forces against normalizing ties with Israel. [passage omitted]

Use of Ze'ev Rockets Against Hizballah Reported

TA1208190094 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Sporadic exchanges of light gunfire between terrorists and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] troops are continuing in south Lebanon.

Yesterday afternoon, a few Lebanese correspondents were invited to observe IDF troops firing four Ze'ev rockets which, it was said, were going to be used against Hizballah. IDF staffers told the Lebanese reporters that each rocket carries about 500 kg of explosives and that its range is close to 1 km.

Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz adds that the rocket had been used by the IDF after the Six-Day War and that, in fact, the Army had taken it out of use over a decade ago. Nevertheless, the rocket caused great panic among terrorists in the al-Rayhan and Sujud area.

'Sources' Deny Use of Rockets

NC1208171594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Security sources in the south denied today a report broadcast by the agents' radio [Voice of the South] that Israel used (Ze'ev 50) rockets in the bombardment of Iqlim al-Tuffah. The sources explained that an examination of the bombarded areas showed fragments of 160-mm and 203-mm artillery shells, which explode with a very loud sound.

The security sources added that the Israeli radio's failure to mention that the new rockets had been used, leaving the agents' radio to broadcast this item, shows that the whole thing is a rumor intended to intimidate the steadfast citizens of the south.

Hizballah Claims Assassination Bid on SLA Member

NC1308061394 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Riyad al-'Abdallah, a member of the security department of the South Lebanese Army [SLA], has been the target of an assassination attempt.

According to a statement distributed by Hizballah, al-'Abdallah, a man who instilled terror in the hearts of al-Khiyam inhabitants, was in charge of a network of agents collecting intelligence for the enemy in Beirut and its southern suburb. The network made several attempts to explode booby-trapped cars in the southern suburb. Al-'Abdallah also recruited several women to do intelligence work for the Israelis.

The statement says that Hizballah sent several groups behind enemy lines. Despite the enemy's extraordinary precautions, one of these groups succeeded in planting a large bomb in al-Khiyam and detonated it as al-'Abdallah's motorcade was passing. The group, Hizballah stated, returned safely to base.

SLA Men Reportedly Bomb Israeli Vehicles, Houses

NC1408192294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] Acute differences have arisen between the militias of the agent Lahd [South Lebanese Army, SLA] and elements of the Israeli security organs. According to available reports, a Lahdist officer named 'Ali al-Sayyid, acting upon the orders of 'Ali Khalil Humayyid, a Lahdist security official, has bombed a number of vehicles and houses belonging to the Israeli security organs. The differences are still rife.

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Radio: Israel Must Declare 'Readiness To Withdraw'

JN1208152694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1145 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Peace for Syria has never been a transitory state. It is, instead, a position that predates even the peace process that began at the Madrid Conference. It is a firm objective for which Syria has worked, and continues to work. Therefore, Syria has rejected every attempt to deprive that peace of its set course, or to divert it from that course,—a course on which the U.S. peace initiative based on the resolutions of international legitimacy was founded.

The Lebanese position on peace, in terms of adherence to the foundations of the just and comprehensive peace and a rejection of separate and partial solutions, agrees exactly with the Syrian position. The two positions—the Lebanese and the Syrian—have proceeded initially from the two brotherly peoples' interests and aspirations, as well as from the interests of the region as a whole, and, consequently, from the sense that the just and comprehensive peace is the only kind of peace that can survive and last. Anything else will only fail and collapse. Therefore, the inseparability of the Syrian and Lebanese positions and tracks has been evident since the start of the peace process. Syria and Lebanon have sought to keep the peace talks from deviating from their set course so the peace process can preserve the principles on which it was based and arrive at its desired objective of the just and comprehensive peace.

Undoubtedly, the basic requirements for peace are based on accomplishing complete withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights, south Lebanon, and the eastern al-Biqa'. These are fair requirements approved by international legitimacy. The peace talks were founded on them. The Madrid conference was launched principally on these clear constants and principles. Deviating from these constants and principles means a deviation from international resolutions and international guarantees.

Consequently, if Israel is sincere about its position on peace, then it must take steps to implement the principles of the Madrid conference. It must also renounce its odd proposals and stop its attempts to circumvent the peace process as a whole.

Syria believes progress in the peace talks hinges on Israel's readiness to withdraw completely from the territory it occupied in 1967. Unless Israel declares this readiness, talks cannot progress or achieve their objective.

Syria and Lebanon want a genuine peace based on the international resolutions and the land-for-peace formula to achieve the just and comprehensive peace. Past experience confirms separate solutions cannot establish a stable and genuine peace. They are very far from the spirit of justice and the comprehensive nature which must be available in order to have a solution in the entire region.

The position leading to genuine peace restores rights to their rightful owners—a kind of peace under which, as President Hafiz al-Asad said, there is no occupation, and which is based on right and preserves dignity.

'Pressure' To Reactivate Peace Process Rejected

MM1508091294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Aug 94 p3

[Reports by Salwa al-Ustuwani in Damascus and AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau in Cairo: "Syria Rejects Political Pressure for Reactivation of Peace Process, and Sees No Point in Christopher's Return While Israeli Intransigence Continues"]

[Excerpts] Informed political sources in Cairo have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Syria recently held contacts with a number of Arab and European states, especially Cairo, Paris, and Moscow, reaffirming its absolute rejection of what it described as attempts to put political pressure on Syria to agree to reactivate the peace process with Israel without the fundamental guarantees it requested. Syria sees such pressure in the recent U.S. State Department confirmation of the U.S. refusal to reconsider the list of terrorist states in the region in its report for this current year. The list includes Syria, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, Iran, Sudan, and Cuba.

Meanwhile, Syria has again confirmed the failure of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour, saying that there would be no point in the U.S. secretary's returning to the region in the absence of an Israeli show of intentions that would pave the way for a clear declaration by it of willingness to withdraw fully from the Golan. [passage omitted]

The sources said that some Arab and international parties contacted by Syria would begin a new move to persuade Washington to amend the list before the end of the year.

In Damascus, Syria yesterday confirmed that Christopher's tour did not achieve any success at a time when Israel was supposed to respond to the Syrian proposals submitted through the U.S. secretary in the interest of the peace process in the appropriate framework. Syria accused Israel of still being completely detached from the foundations of real, just, and comprehensive peace, and still rejecting the central principle of the peace process and deliberately trying to sidestep the issue of full withdrawal from the Golan and south Lebanon.

Syrian sources said that there would be no point in any future tours by Christopher if Israel does not show intentions that would pave the way for a declaration of a clear commitment to full withdrawal from the Golan and south Lebanon.

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They added that Christopher has concluded his tour and returned to his country carrying nothing new that would boost the peace process. He was shocked to find in Israel the same evasion of the essence of the peace process and insistence on Israeli positions that stand as an obstacle and impede progress in the peace process and impede the continuation of that process.

The sources said that when he came to Damascus, Christopher submitted ideas which were discussed seriously and in depth, and he left with Syrian ideas reflecting Syria's interest in establishing peace. Christopher was supposed to return from Israel to Damascus to continue his mission but, at the request of Peres, he did not come to Damascus.

The sources added that Peres succeeded in postponing Christopher's talks in Damascus for a while but he will not succeed in stopping the peace process and the call for a just and comprehensive peace. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Returns Home From Cairo

JN1408145194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1415 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus [from Egypt] this afternoon. He was seen off at Alexandria airport by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Syrian Ambassador in Cairo Dr. 'Isa Darwish.

Prime Minister, Libyan Official Discuss Ties

JN1108151794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] At 1000 today, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Dr. Muhammad 'Abdallah Bayt-al-Mal, secretary of the General People's Committee for Planning and Finance in Libya. The meeting was attended by Finance Minister Muhammah Khalid al-Mahayini and the Libyan ambassador in Damascus.

The talks, during the meeting, dealt with the existing relations of cooperation between the two sisterly countries, Syria and Libya, and ways to develop them in all fields.

Libyan Minister Departs

JN1208060594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Dr. Muhammad 'Abdallah Bayt al-Mal, secretary of the General People's Committee for Planning and Finance in Libya, and the delegation accompanying him left Damascus this evening at the end of a week-long visit to Syria. [passage omitted]

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Bangladesh

UN Investigation of Soldier's 'Murder' Urged

BK1408150694 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] Bangladesh has asked the UN authorities to investigate the murder of a Bangladeshi soldier of the UN inspection mission on the Iraq-Kuwait border on 12 August to identify the criminals. [Word indistinct] Harunur Rashid, serving under the UN Iraq-Kuwait inspection mission, was killed while on border patrol duty on 12 August.

Talks Held With Burma on Refugee Repatriation

BK1208155594 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Official-level talks between Bangladesh and Burma were held in Cox's Bazar today. The meeting discussed the issue of expediting the repatriation of Rohingya refugees to their homeland in Arakan Province. The six-member Burmese delegation was led by the director general of department of manpower and immigration, while the nine-member Bangladesh delegation was led by the divisional commissioner of Chittagong. Matters of bilateral interests also participated in the talks.

Iran

Argentine Envoy Again Summoned to Foreign Ministry

LD1208133694 Tehran IRNA in English 1250 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 12, IRNA—Argentine Charge d'Affaires to Tehran Martin A. Rivolta was summoned to the Foreign Ministry Friday for the third consecutive time over the past three days. A Foreign Ministry official said Rivolta had been summoned to the ministry for the first time on Wednesday to be informed of Iran's objection to accusations made against four Iranians by a judge who is in charge of probing into last month's explosion in Buenos Aires.

According to the official, Rivolta was also summoned to the ministry on Thursday for the second time and was sounded protest on the allegation made by Argentine officials against the Iranian ambassador.

Asked To Convey Velayati Letter

NC1308064794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Yesterday the Argentine charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Ministry for the third time in the past three days and was handed the official reply by our foreign minister to a letter from the Argentine foreign minister.

The letter refers to American and Israeli efforts minutes after the 18 July incident in Buenos Aires to concoct false allegations against the Islamic Republic of Iran and to influence the investigations and the magistrate's report on the explosion, and it expresses the hope that the perception and the independent approach of the Argentine Government and judicial officials will prevent an unfavorable precedent in international relations.

The letter expresses regret that the investigations by the magistrate dealing with the Buenos Aires incident have apparently become a toy in the hands of an impostor—detailed information on the real identity of whom was previously issued by Iran—and it states: We expect the Argentine Government not to allow the publication of such accusations within its boundaries against Iran and its citizens, and to thus prepare the ground for preserving and continuing healthy relations between the two countries.

In the letter, our foreign minister states that the failure to produce any documents to prove the defamatory allegations against Iranian citizens, diplomats and officials despite an official request by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran shows that no proof does exist.

Pointing out that the four accused people have announced to the Foreign Ministry their decision to file suit against their accusers, Velayati expresses hopes that the Argentine Government will take the necessary steps to make the slanderers answer to competent courts.

Our foreign minister has also emphasized: The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran fully expects the Argentine Government to act according to its international commitments on this and guarantee the well-being, respect, and dignity of the Iranian staff based in that country.

Our foreign minister has also condemned all types of international terrorism and has emphasized the need for a uniform, all-around, impartial, and non-political approach on this international problem and has expressed the readiness of Iran to cooperate with Argentina within the framework of international laws and norms that apply to countries in order to prove the baselessness and the political nature of these allegations. He has also expressed hopes that the Government of the Republic of Argentina will also express its readiness to partake in this mutual cooperation and will act according to the basic principles of international law and mutual respect.

Our correspondent reports that before entering the Foreign Ministry yesterday, the Argentine charge answered his question on whether the Government of Argentina has proof of its allegations. He said: We do not have any

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proof and we hope that the problem between the two countries will be solved through talks.

Previously, the Argentine officials had said that they are under pressure to accuse Tehran of involvement in the Buenos Aires explosion. President Carlos Menem also said yesterday that his recent comments, in which he accused the Islamic Republic of Iran of involvement in the recent explosion, had been hastily made.

Argentine Judge's Report Said Full of 'Blunders'

LD1408205594 Tehran IRNA in English 2029 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 14, IRNA—A Foreign Ministry official said here Sunday that the 134-page file made by Juan Jose Galeano, the Argentine federal judge who is holding an official inquiry into the July 18 bomb blast at the Buenos Aires Jewish Center, "includes glaring blunders in addition to several discrepancies."

Speaking to IRNA, he said a person who presides over the seat of judgement should base his statements on facts, whereas, Galeano has relied on the claims of a CIA agent.

"The report which Galeano has filed on the basis of an account of a CIA agent, saying Mr. Abbas Zarrabi Kharasani, the first secretary of the (Iranian) Embassy was in Buenos Aires from November 1987 to June 1992, is totally erroneous."

"For the information of Mr. Galeano, First Secretary Zarrabi Khorasani served in the Iranian Embassy in Buenos Aires from November 1987 until October 1990," Iranian Foreign Ministry official said.

He said pointed out that based on his erroneous information, Galeano had said that Zarrabi Khorasani was in Buenos Aires on 17 March, 1992, the day of the blast at the Israeli Embassy, whereas, the fact is Zarrabi Khorasani had left Argentina two years before that incident.

According to documents at the Iranian Foreign Ministry and at Buenos Aires airport, Zarrabi Khorasani had left the Argentine capital more than a year before, noted the Iranian official.

"Records at Buenos Aires airport are more authentic than the claims of a CIA agent," he added.

He said that by having the above information it is not difficult for the judge in charge of the investigation to find out that Zarrabi Khorasani was not in Buenos Aires at the time of the bomb blast at the Israeli Embassy.

Another glaring error in the judge's report, said the Foreign Ministry official, is the tenure of embassy third secretary, Ahmad Falsafi, who the report claims arrived in Buenos Aires in January 1992 and started his duties in July the same year.

The fact is, he added, "Mr. Falsafi arrived in Buenos Aires in April 1989, took up his duties in July 1989 and returned to Iran without by the end of 1992."

The official said that the judge's report wants to say that the four accused Iranians were present in Buenos Aires on March 17, 1992 (date of the Israeli Embassy blast) and on July 18, 1994 (Jewish Center blast), "a claim which is categorically untrue."

"For instance, it has been claimed that member of parliament, 'Ali Akbar Parvaresh, paid a four-day official visit to Buenos Aires in December 1993 more than a year after the embassy explosion and 20 months before the Jewish Centre blast, whereas, the fact is Parvaresh did not visit Buenos Aires at all in 1993," he noted.

The Foreign Ministry official said it was better for the federal judge to rely upon Argentine Government records such as those at Buenos Aires airport instead of the claims of an anti-revolutionary fugitive and a CIA mercenary.

He said the date of departure of the four accused Iranians have been stamped on their passports by Buenos Aires airport officials, and it is hoped that the judge by his naivety would avoid causing further embarrassment to the judicial and executive officials of Argentina.

UN Mission Denies Chemical Weapons Charges

LD1308065994 Tehran IRNA in English 0628 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] United Nations, New York, Aug. 13, (IRNA)—Iran Friday categorically denied the unfounded allegations made by some U.S. officials on Iran's efforts to produce chemical weapons.

The Iranian Mission to the United Nations in a press release said that the statements by two American senators who claimed Iran was not a signatory to the chemical weapons convention (CWC) were in line with the hostile policies of the U.S. towards Iran.

During the meeting of the Senate Armed Services Committee on Thursday in the presence of Deputy Secretary of Defence John Deutch and Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff General John Shalikashvili, two American senators, Thurmond and Cohen, claimed that certain countries including Iran had not signed the agreement.

"What action should be taken against non-signatory countries, those who do not sign on to this particular agreement? Do we take potentially military action if Libya, Iraq, Iran, were to go forward and develop these," argued Senator Cohen.

The press release further added that it is very unfortunate and indeed ironic that Senator Thurmond and Senator Cohen have not taken upon themselves the burden of consulting the list of CWC signatories or even

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recalling the names of countries that have contributed to the negotiations of this convention.

"It is more surprising that Mr. John Deutch, the deputy defense secretary who was to brief the senators did not care to correct the misrepresentation by the senators of Iran on factual grounds," it added.

The mission stressed that Iran actively and constructively participated in the completion of the chemical weapons convention and signed it when it was opened for signature as a treaty in January 1993.

It said that throughout the negotiations in Geneva, Iran was strongly supportive of the intention to ban the development and stockpiling of these weapons to buttress the ineffectual 1925 Geneva protocol on no-use.

The press release added that Iran continues to contribute to the ongoing negotiations in The Hague to work out the implementation modalities of chemical weapons convention and looks forward to positive attitude of other signatories.

Stressing that Iran has been the victim of the most extensive use of chemical weapons against any state this century in which it suffered some 10,000 casualties or fatalities as a result of the illegal use of these weapons, it said that Iran has renounced these weapons on the grounds of morality despite the fact that its experience as a victim might justify it.

"Nevertheless, the United States, which was remarkably mute about Iraq's use of these horrendous weapons, continues to accuse Iran of harboring an intention to develop a calendestine chemical weapons program," it concluded.

Embassy in Turkey Denies MKO Allegations

LD1408170494 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] Ankara, Aug. 14, IRNA—The Iranian Embassy here Sunday refuted the recent claims by a so-called spokesman of the terrorist Mojaheden-e Khalq Organization (MKO) in the U.S. as part of a coordinated propaganda campaign orchestrated by the U.S. and Zionist regime.

A press release issued by the embassy said that last Thursday [11 August] certain Turkish papers published the baseless claims of Mohammad Mohaddesin who called himself as incharge of the so-called foreign relations section of the grouplet.

In his interview, Mohaddesin who is in the U.S. at the invitation of certain U.S. congressmen, alleged that Turkish dissidents are being trained in Iran and that Iran was involved in the assassination of a columnist of the Istanbul daily "CUMHURIYET".

Rejecting the fabricated and baseless reports, the press release said, Iran considers such allegations as a plot to tarnish Tehran-Ankara relations especially after the recent visit of Turkish President Suleyman Demirel to Iran which had a profound and positive impact in upgrading bilateral ties.

The timing of the allegations with the smear campaign against Islamic Iran launched by the pro-Zionist mass media is indicative of the close links between the two, it added.

In general, raising such allegations at this juncture is part of a joint plot by the U.S. and the Zionist regime to mar Iran's relations with other states especially its neighbours, the press release concluded.

Nateq-Nuri on Bombing, U.S., Israel

LD1308174794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Excerpt] In the continuation of his visit to Eslamshahr, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles addressed a gathering of local officials explaining the country's current issues and pressures exerted by arrogant powers. He said: Despite such pressure, the government has carried out many infrastructural projects, the results of which we will witness in the future.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri referred to the spiteful propaganda of world arrogance against the Islamic Republic of Iran in connection with an explosion at a Jewish center in Argentina and said: Iran always condemns terrorist acts because it is the biggest victim of terrorism itself. He described America and Israel as state terrorists and said: The Zionist regime has been committing crimes and abductions for many years and international organizations and circles have chosen to be silent. But regarding this issue, no documented and reasonable evidence exists against Iran, yet they choose to engage in extensive propaganda to deviate the world public opinion. [passage omitted]

'Awkward Position' of Argentine Government Viewed

LD1208214394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Commentary: "Propaganda Brawl In Buenos Aires"]

[Text] Although a month has passed since the explosion of bomb in the Jewish center in Buenos Aires, Argentine security officials have failed to identify and arrest the those behind bomb planting. During this time, the Zionist dominated mass media have made a scenario, designed by the United States and Israel, a topic of the news and commentaries and they are engaged in spreading the same false news.

Since there is no documented evidence on the agent or agents behind the bomb explosion, most of the mass media refer to a mysterious source by the name Manuchehr Mo'tamer, an Iranian shopkeeper residing in

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Venezuela, believed to be a CIA agent. His statements are the basis of all the false accusations which are leveled against Iran over the past month. Presently the question which is posed by the world public opinion is this: Why doesn't the Argentine judicial system conduct an all-sided and well-documented investigation on the issue so as to eliminate all the false news. Seemingly the judge in charge of investigating the case has not secured any evidence on the agents behind the explosion in Buenos Aires but has issue an order to investigate three Iranian diplomats residing in Argentina on the basis of conjectures and speculation.

One must say that the Argentine Government, which is strongly under the pressure of the Zionist regime, especially the United States, so as to accuse Iran of bombing supporting terrorism, is presently in an awkward condition. On the one hand the political independence and credibility of this government have been endangered and, on the other, with the influence which the Zionists have on Argentina's mass media as well as its financial centers, it is difficult for the Argentine Government to tolerate such pressure. For this reason, it has shown different and sometimes hasty reactions over the past month, especially that the presidential elections are to be held in Argentina a few months from now. For this reason solving this political problem has an undesirable importance for the government in Buenos Aires.

It seems that the Argentine Government can bring itself out of the present deadlock by the speeding up the investigation on the agents behind bombing who are certainly closely related to the Zionist regime. Nevertheless, the world and Zionist propaganda pressures have apparently created hard conditions for the Argentine judicial system which has made an independent investigation without negative atmosphere difficult for them.

Emami-Kashani Condemns Satellite TV 'Onslaught'

LD1208164194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Aug 94

[First Friday sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani, at Tehran University on 12 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] Today, world arrogance has an extensive plot for its program against Islam, against the Muslims, against our country. The subject of satellites and the use of satellites is a cultural onslaught. It is most significant for onslaughts to inure.

At one time, the enemy decided to embark on a military war with us. He lost the military war and did nothing. He embarked on political war, which I will refer to again in my second sermon. He made some trouble with economic war; but, thank God, our nation endured that and still does. But now he has entered a cultural war. The cultural war, God forbid, will wreak such blight on our young! If fathers and mothers do not realize what the satellite means, what it has done to the Western world, and how the West is in mourning that it no longer has any proper sons and daughters, no proper wives, no honor. All has been lost!

Our excellence and value in Islamic states—any Westerner who really understands will envy the lives of Muslims—is that the son belongs to him, the daughter belongs to him, and the wife is his wife. Schools, gathering places, and streets are delineated clearly. Westerners suffer from themselves. There are many in America who suffer from this regretful state of affairs. There are too many in Europe, in Germany, in Britain, France, and various countries who suffer from those programs and turn them off. There are those who are hedonists who indulge in profligacy. [passage omitted]

Psychologically and spiritually, many of our people and our young have become drained in life through those programs, have become wretched, have lost their mental balance [ravani shodan]. These are statistics that must be mentioned given the opportunity.

This is a cultural onslaught against Islam. The satellite is exactly against the honorable Prophet; exactly against the honorable Prophet; against the Koran; against the Lord of the Age, without any doubt.

Just as the the West has plotted against us through culture, we must confront the satellite with culture. I feel obliged to say to you here that there is a need for an expert discussion. I mean that our Sound and Vision organization should convene a roundtable on television with experts in sociology and psychology and those who are well-versed in the morals of the West. Our young see what goes on in the Western world; see what a rich supply they have, and what a wealth of tranquility and spirituality exists in our country and the Islamic states—especially anywhere where the Islamic substance is greater like Iran and an Islamic government is established! See what a blessing all that is!

They want to snatch all that blessing from our generation! Inure! Then when they inject, they would not feel any pain! That injection is to render them senseless to the pain. What treachery those parents are committing! What crime they are committing against their own children! How the Western world is won by those crimes! [passage omitted]

Of course what must be done by the government and the Majles is something in its own right and part of their duty. Cultural onslaught requires cultural action. Cultural onslaught requires cultural confrontation. The enemy is attacking the brain; we must hold a shield in front of the brain, not in front of the hands. [passage omitted]

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Emami-Kashani Urges Argentina To Avoid 'Trap'

LD1208141494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1107 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Second Friday sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani, at Tehran University on 12 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] In its military war against us during the eight years of holy defense, the enemy found out that our people and nation would never let go of their religion and country because of such conspiracies. The enemy then entered an economic war against us, and it has been engaged in a political war against us right from the outset.

Some of the enemy's recent acts included what it did inside the country, that is planting a bomb in the pure shrine of His Holiness Imam Reza, peace be upon him, imagining that they could undermine the Iranian nation's unity and cohesiveness. On the other hand, they have focused on other countries, such as Argentina, where they have created a bomb explosion. In the course of their imperialistic propaganda, they set out on a carefully planned conspiracy against the Islamic revolution, portraying it as a terrorist entity.

Regarding this conspiracy, we have two things to say to the Argentine Government, and one thing to say to the world's imperialistic media and the propaganda apparatus of arrogance: What we want to say to the Argentine Government is that Argentina is a major country which is Iran's friend. With your background and your political and judicial independence, is it right that you should put yourself in line with global arrogance's propaganda and fall into the trap of plots hatched by the Zionists and America? In this way, you are in fact undermining your political and judicial independence.

You choose to interview a fugitive, a liar, and a cheat, who introduces himself as an Iranian diplomat and has said that he used to be a deputy minister in Iran, and then you set out to blame the bomb explosion on Iran on the basis of what that fugitive has said. Do you call this legal? Is this not falling into a trap?

The second thing which I, or in fact the Iranian nation and even every seeker of the truth the world over, want to say to the Argentine Government and judiciary is whether it is right for one to talk to someone and then make allegations against a number of other individuals without first finding out who that person really is and without referring to his background, which would reveal that he is an enemy of the Islamic revolution, a fugitive, a liar, and a cheat? This is really unseemly. [passage omitted]

What kind of investigation was really carried out by the Argentine judge? It really is very strange, and one is really saddened when one sees what a bad place the world has become. How can one just go on making accusations, attaching different labels, and trying to sell a whole nation's good name so cheaply? [passage omitted]

The third point is addressed to America, Zionism, and their followers. My point is this: How naive do you think the world is? Do you think the world is this naive? Is all the world this naive? You have repeated the words of a certain person from a loudspeaker. Do you think all the world has believed you? Does this mean that it is so unaware? If this was the case, you should be very great now, so why are you so miserable? Why are you so vile? Why does everyone have bad things to say about you? So why are you...[interrupted by crowd chanting God is great and death to America] ...Thank you, please pay attention, time is short. The cry of pan-Islamism has arisen everywhere in the world. Everywhere in the world, even in the heart of America, they tell you: death to America, death to Israel, death to the criminal. Why is this taking place? If your propaganda is effective for you, if your aims have influenced the hearts of people, why have you been so disgraced in the world? [passage omitted] hl

Khamene'i Reappoints Yazdi as Judiciary Head

LD1408112094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 14 Aug 94

["Text" of letter by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the revolution, appointing Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi to another five-year term as head of the Judiciary Branch; issued in Tehran on 14 August]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Ayatollah Haj Shaykh Mohammad Yazdi, may your outstanding successes continue. With the passage of a further five years in the life of the Islamic Republic's Judiciary Branch, under the excellent management of that eminent scholar, this most important system underwent another period with unique particularities that separate it from its two previous periods. It gained further experience and spiritual knowledge.

No doubt there were a number of strong as well as weak points in that period. The judicial system should attain complete Islamic balance [taraz-e eslami-ye kamel] through safeguarding and increasing its strong points and reducing the weak points. The criterion for accuracy and strength in the Judiciary Branch is that right be restored and wrong be stopped. Thus justice and fairness will prevail, the rights of the weak and the oppressed will be restored, and the country's security will be maintained.

Here, thanking your excellency and your respected colleagues for your five years of service and endeavor, as well as each and every one of the noble, pious, and wise judges, who have exercised great spiritual capability and wisdom during this period to facilitate judicial procedures in the country, I appoint you as the head of the

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Judiciary Branch for a further period and assign to your excellency this crucial and sensitive responsibility, which is a source of pride.

I deem it necessary specifically to emphasize some of the points that I have in mind regarding the great judiciary establishment and that I have reiterated many times in speeches and writings addressed to the head and members of the Judiciary Branch.

- Attracting outstanding and efficient revolutionary elements who are committed and caring to sensitive posts in the Judiciary Branch.
- Expelling opportunist, careless, unwise, and possibly corrupt elements from the entire establishment, particularly from crucial responsibilities.
- Introducing a monitoring procedure for all the sections of the establishment, the proper appraisal of individual performance, encouragement of those who work well, and decisive action against those who perform inadequately or badly.
- Enhancing the scientific and practical quality of the judiciary; training and attracting wise and knowledgeable individuals; and undertaking research into more advanced methods to safeguard justice and expedite judicial procedures.

I beseech God Almighty to grant you further success.

[signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, 14 August 1994

'Disturbances' Reported in Some Cities

NC1408123594 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] Reports coming from Iran today speak of disturbances and violence in some Iranian cities. A report received from Tehran says that the Iranian resistance units [wahdat al-muqawamah al- iraniyah] set fire to two vehicles belonging to the Iranian security forces in Mashhad, burning them completely. Iranian resistance units in Tehran seized a vehicle belonging to the Iranian security forces today.

* Domestically Built Platform To Become Operational

94LA0231D Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 13 Jul 94 p 1

[Text] Tehran, 18 Tir [9 July] (KEYHAN-E HAVA'I News Service)—With the procurement of the needed credits, the first Iranian-made drilling platform will go into operation next year in the Caspian Sea, and the drilling operations of the first exploratory oil well will also begin.

'Abdol-Reza Hoseyni-Nezhad, the executive officer of the Caspian Sea drilling platform, announced the above. He said: Eighty-five percent of the steps to carry out this project have been carried out by domestic specialist manpower.

According to him, the main contractor in the contract is a Finnish company, but the construction operations on the platform were done by the Iran maritime industries company Sadra, as a subcontractor. For a country such as Iran, with great oil resources, it is necessary to organize such projects.

It is necessary to note: The construction of this platform is expected to cost $63 million in foreign exchange and 8,700 million rials.

* Seminary Objecting to Khamene'i's Marja'iyat

94LA0231B Stockholm NAMEH-YE MARDOM in Persian 21 Jun 94 p 6

[Text] In a recent issue the Arabic magazine AL-HAWADITH, printed in London, published the text of a letter from the Esfahan seminary addressed to 'Ali Meshkini, the chief of the regime's Assembly of Experts, protesting the rank of "source of emulation" for 'Ali Khamene'i.

In its letter the Esfahan seminary called Khamene'i a "hojjat ol-Eslam." With reference to 'Ali Meshkini's letter concerning Khamene'i's status as "source of emulation," it wrote that this position "has been severely criticized by experts and those concerned about the Islamic revolution, and this has come to the attention of the seminaries."

The Esfahan seminary then criticized the Assembly of Experts, saying that out of a "total of 110,000 clergymen, it selected only a group of 30 to 40 individuals to discuss their interest and that of the nation," people who "would express a single view and ignore the views of others who are not of the same belief." It rejected Khamene'i's legal capacity to engage in "theological issues" and wrote the following in its letter:

"Contrary to some passing remarks, Mr. Khamene'i's capacity as a person with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence was never confirmed by the Imam. It can even be said that Ayatollah Khomeini warned Mr Khamene'i both by his words and his behavior that he should not entertain such an idea." At the end of its detailed letter, the Esfahan seminary wrote the following:

"...now if the clergymen want to assign the role of leader of the revolution to Mr. Khamene'i and if they are thinking of following him, this does not require the issuance of a new statement, especially not after five years. However, if in doing these things they are planning to shake the foundations of the Shiite concept of source of emulation, they must first realize that they have shaken the foundations of a structure through whose credibility they themselves have reached their present positions. Second, they must realize that the history of religions, and especially the history of Shiism, has shown that playing with the faith and beliefs of the people has not had a good outcome for any government organization.... You must permit the Shiites to continue on the

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path to which they have been accustomed for 1,000 years, and you must preserve the dignity of the position of source of emulation in Iran."

* New Farsi Publication Published in Paris

94LA0231E Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 13 Jul 94 p 4

[Text] Tehran, 15 Tir [6 July] (KEYHAN-E HAVA'I News Service)—A new Persian-language publication called IRAN has been published in Paris by the Bu 'Ali Sina Cultural Foundation.

Radio France reports that the publication IRAN has been registered according to law and will henceforth be published once a month.

'Ali Rastin, manager of the Bu 'Ali Sina Cultural Foundation, who has been active in France since the year 1362 [21 March 1983-20 March 1984], wrote concerning the monthly publication's goals: Among the groups that have been active outside the country for years, perhaps the biggest ones, according to some criteria, have been recognized as wrongdoers, but there is no doubt about the innocence of the and Iranian young people and youth living outside the country.

He added: A common characteristic of all Iranians living outside the country is their attachment to Iran. Above all, we must retain our Iranian identity.

Continuing, the director of the monthly publication IRAN wrote: This publication is a free stopping place for those who are attached to Iran. The basis of its work is defending Iranian culture, combined with respect for the beliefs of others.

It is worth mentioning: Recently new publications have been published outside the country, some of which are being published by known agents of the former regime.

Pakistan

Bhutto Speaks on Relations With India, U.S.

BK1408094094 Islamabad PTV Television Network in Urdu 0313 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Independence Day address by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in front of the Parliament House in Islamabad—live]

[Text] Dear countrymen! Today's golden day constitutes a milestone in the history of Muslims of this great subcontinent. It was 47 years ago that we diverted the painful turn of history which was gradually binding us with the chains of slavery. A tragic series of incidents had made us helpless and subjugated. The forces of Islam were defeated on a bloody day in 1757 on the battlefield of Plassey. Tipu Sultan rekindled the candles of independence, but treachery from among ourselves put the candles out again. Imbued with the Islamic spirit, that freedom fanatic achieved martyrdom. After 100 years, in 1857, the Muslims of India led the war of independence, sacrificing thousands of souls, but the blood of martyrs from Bengal to Balakot was spent in vain due to the lack of a comprehensive political organization and the dream of independence could not be fulfilled. If you study the British archives of the 19th century, you will find the repetition of an acknowledgement that the Indian Muslims were not willing to accept slavery, and that whenever they got a chance they made intrepid efforts to secure freedom. Realizing this, a comprehensive political system was formulated to crush the Muslims of this subcontinent under the yoke of the Hindu majority.

We extend our salute to our elders, whose prudence protected us and prevented the dangerous plot from being implemented. We extend the salute to Allama Iqbal, the poet of Pakistan, who presented us a valuable gift in the ideology of Pakistan. We extend our salute to our great leader Mohammad Ali Jinnah, who translated Iqbal's dreams into reality. We extend our salute to thousands of martyrs who did not hesitate to sacrifice their lives in India in order to live a life of freedom in Pakistan. We extend our salute to the Muslim freedom fighters who, from 1947 to 1949 and in 1965 and 1971 dared to face death to counter the enemy's assault and shed their blood to defend Pakistan. We extend our salute to the Kashmiri youths who are still offering their blood to complement Pakistan.

Dear countrymen! The achievement of Pakistan was not an easy task. If we realize that it was not easy to protect Pakistan, then it will not be difficult for us to comprehend the exact value of this country. It is important for us to examine all incidents that might have a bearing on our stability. Every individual among us, whether in the government or outside, should ask himself how his every remark [qaul] will have an impact on our dear motherland's security. I am asking this question because, unfortunately, in our 47-year history, we have undergone an era when we lost the fundamental ties which bind a nation and a community. By fundamental ties, I mean democracy, without which various people living in a large country like ours get divided into groups and lose the sense of belonging to the same motherland. We stand proudly in the comity of nations today, as we are an independent and democratic state. Today, we are treated with respect as our socioeconomic system is not based on exploitation but on justice.

Our policy on international issues is not based on opportunism but on principles, and our stand on each international issue is framed in the light of the UN principles and international law. [preceding two words in English].

My brothers and sisters! The violation of international principles in connection with Kashmir has no precedence in modern history. The cruelty with which human rights have been trampled there brings us a terrible throe. The sacrifices with which the freedom fighters of Kashmir faced the oppression and repression of 600,000

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Indian troops also have no peer. This is a pledge from the Pakistani Government—our pledge with history—that whatever happens, 120 million people of Pakistan will not be deterred from supporting the Kashmiris. [applause].

I want to tell the Indian Government that it is not possible to succumb to your pressure, to avoid telling the world that their troops are committing shameful crimes against Kashmiris. We want a peaceful solution of this dispute, but the basis of this solution is the same self-determination [preceding two words in English] which formed the basis of the independence of India and Pakistan. The self-respecting people of Kashmir have yet to decide whether their future lies with India or Pakistan. Until this chapter of the independence of subcontinent is finished, true peace and stability cannot be maintained here.

Ladies and gentlemen! Our ties with the Kashmiri people are those of loyalty. We have a sacred pledge with them regarding their rights, to which we are committed as long as the world endures. There is a price for these ties, which Pakistan has always paid. This price is the threat to Pakistan's own security, about which we cannot remain aloof from for even a moment. This encounter is with a country with resources five to six times greater than ours and which is not ashamed of having its people die of hunger and poverty. It is determined to emerge as the third largest military power in the world. Even in this era of recession, India has increased its defense budget by 20 percent. There is talk at the international forums of a new world order, but India is engaged in a race to acquire Trishul, Prithvi, and Agni missiles. In our priorities, social action is at the top of the agenda, but we also know how to survive on an empty stomach because it is not the Muslim way to live as a slave. A Muslim's conscience is born of freedom. [applause]

The Pakistani Government will provide all means to our armed forces which are essential for the defense of the motherland. The hearts of our people beat in unison with those of their armed forces, and they stand united like a wall for the protection of their armed forces.

Ladies and gentlemen! We are not prepared to take delivery of the F-16 aircraft with a few conditions attached. We want good relations with the United States, but they should be based on principles. We welcome the regional approach [preceding two words in English] of the Clinton administration on nuclear nonproliferation and we have also proposed a zero-missile regime [preceding three words in English]. We want to work for global and regional peace, and are committed to that, but we cannot bargain on our security matters. Pakistan cannot take a unilateral step on the nuclear issue because this issue is linked to our security, and when we talk of security we mean the unfinished agenda [preeceding two words in English] of the partition of the subcontinent—that is Kashmir. Because of Kashmir, tension has existed between India and Pakistan. Three wars have taken place. Pakistan was disintegrated, and that is why whoever tries to understand Pakistan must learn the history of Pakistan. The lesson of that history is that Pakistan's security starts with Kashmir, and Pakistan's nuclear program was formulated by Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto when India carried out a nuclear test in 1974. This nuclear test spread the clouds of proliferation over the subcontinent. Now India has tried to change the missile status [preceding word in English], which if not stopped could threaten the proliferation of missiles in the subcontinent.

Pakistan is a responsible state—a progressive Islamic state whose elected prime minister is a woman. Pakistan occupies an important geo-strategtic position. Pakistan is located at a crossroads of the region with one path leading toward the gulf, a second toward Central Asia, and a third toward Southeast Asia. Pakistan is a moderate state. We have worked with the United Nations on Afghanistan, Somalia, Bosnia, and the gulf war. Pakistan is a stable country, and its stability will result in the end of terrorism, narcotics, and arms trading in the region. Pakistan's stability is linked to the stability of global values.

Pakistan believes in equality, both within and outside the country. That is why Pakistan does not accept the one-sided Pressler Amendment. An attempt to use the Pressler Amendment was made in 1988 [during Bhutto's first term as prime minister], but the Pakistan Government did not allow this. When the Pressler Amendment was used against Pakistan in 1990, Pakistan was in a fix. A democratic and popular government was dismissed. There was an interim government preparing to file charges of irregularities against its opponents. Pakistan's case was judged by default and the sanctions were imposed against Pakistan under the Pressler Amendment. That is why stability is imperative for the country's interests. Nations suffer heavy losses if chaotic conditions exist. Those who do not practice the politics of principle, those do not accept the verdict of the people, those who work against stability, those who try to complicate the situation within the country, work against the national interests.

Many thanks to God that the conflict between the people and the state has now been buried with the fair elections held last year. Otherwise, history is a witness that the 1965 [India-Pakistan] Tashkent Declaration was a result of the conflict between the people and the state. The separation of East Pakistan in 1971 was a result of a similar conflict. The French nuclear power plant and the Siachen both became victims of the conflict begun in 1977. The conflict begun with the dismissal of the democratic government in 1990 resulted in the enforcement of the Pressler Amendment and Pakistan losing assistance worth $4 billion and 60 F-16's. Civilization begins with principles, and it is the lesson of the politics of principle that God provides strength only to an elected government to prevent chaotic conditions and maintain stability in the country, which results in prosperity.

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Dear countrymen! the brightest example of Pakistan's adherence to principles is the liberation war of Afghanistan. The people of Pakistan equally shared the sorrows and sufferings of their Afghan brethren over a long period of more than a decade. The uprising of the brave Afghan warriors proved historic and not only foreign troops were withdrawn from Afghanistan, the map of Eastern Europe and Central Asia was also changed. However, our hearts shed tears of blood that killing and lawlessness continues in Afghanistan even after the end of the foreign dominance of Afghanistan and our beloved neighboring country is devoid of peace and tranquility. We have tried individually and collectively with Saudi Arabia and Iran to improve situation in Afghanistan. Our foreign minister has many times gone to Afghanistan and held talks with the Afghan organizations. Our message was that peace should be restored. A political solution should be evolved which is acceptable to all brothers. We are ready to all extend all possible assistance in this connection. Even today, our policy is to support all efforts by the United Nations, Islamic Conference Organization and the Afghan organization leaders to arrive at an agreement between various factions.

Dear countrymen! I have already expressed my sentiments about Kashmir. Without a peaceful settlement of Kashmir, South Asia will continue to be gripped with tension. We want India to help us in creating an atmosphere conducive for a dialogue and this diapogue should be based on our proposals which we have put forward for holding a free plebiscite [preceding word in English] in Kashmir. Along with this, our proposals given to India for improving the conditions in Kashmir should also be seriously considered. India has further increased its troops strength in Kashmir.

The testing of advanced missiles [by India] has created panic throughout Asia. We continue to draw the world community's attention toward these threats. I once again declare today that it is imperative for peace, stability and security of South Asia that this region is not only free of weapons of mass destruction, but significant reduction of conventional weapons is also carried out. Our proposals in this regard are still valid.

Pakistan has travelled a long distance in the last one year. Exactly one year ago, we had assembled here when former Prime Minister Moin Qureshi addressed the nation. An interim government was set up under the leadership of Moin Quershi when the country was on the verge of a civil war. The federal and state governments were pointing gun toward each other, a provincial assembly's speaker was abducted, there was no understanding between the president and the prime minister, the people had risen against the a corrupt and highhanded regime. Thanks to the God that a political solution was found. Both The president and prime minister resigned. The crisis which started after the highhandedness of 1990 has now ended. The nation is grateful to the interim government and Moin Qureshi that they transferred the power peacefully to the people's representative by holding general elections.

The stability being witnessed today is due to the cordial relations between the president and the prime minister or between the Presidency and the Parliament. We should give constitutional shape to this stability, otherwise the crisis and stability which continued from the Junejo government's era to the dismissal of Nawaz Sharif's government could again be a result of future election. [sentence as heard]. The opposition in a democratic country is a government in waiting. That is why our doors are always open for the opposition to abrogate the Eighth Amendment. Had we have any personal interests, the Eighth Amendment after the understanding between the president and the prime minister would have become meaningless. However, our thinking cannot be based on personal interest. We should work for the institution and the system. That is why we invite to accept the people's verdict, adopt bipartisan attitude on important issues and cooperate in ending the Eighth Amendment and do not politicize the criminal cases.

Dear countrymen! One year ago, the country was undergoing economic chaos marked by inflation, deficit in the national budget, misappropriation of bank funds, and almost no foreign exchange reserves. The situation was extremely nerve-wracking. It was our duty to introduce discipline in financial institutions, contain the national deficit, and formulate policies which could spark a revolution in agriculture, industry, and trade which could ensure quiet yet far-reaching benefits.

Planning is necessary to remove poverty, illiteracy and backwardness—planning which puts the country on the track of progress and prosperity in their real sense. That is why we have made far-reaching reforms in the economy and the nation will surely benefit from these reforms. Economic indiscipline in our country had reached the point that the nation was burdened with loans for which it owed 100 billion rupees in interest. About 12 or 13 years ago, Pakistan had a debt of merely 150 billion rupees. Today, the national debt has exceeded more than 1,200 billion rupees. The greatest expenditure in the past used to be on defense. Today, we are spending less on defense and more on interest.

The steps we have taken to maintain the economic balance have yielded good results. During the last 10 months, we have brought the budgetary deficit down from 8.5 to 5.5 percent [sentence as heard]. It will be between 5.5 and 4 percent next year. We will borrow only 10 billion rupees, compared to the 60 billion rupees borrowed by the previous government. The private sector will use the remaining funds for industries, trade and production. [sentence as heard]

With your blessings, there has been an 18-percent increase in tax collection. When we assumed office, we had $300 million in foreign exchange reserves. Today

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there is more than $2 billion. Following our economic measures, the World Bank included Pakistan among the five emerging capital markets of the world and the IMF cites Pakistan as an example for other countries.

One of the basic reasons for inflation rise is economic indiscipline and chaos. We have provided a solid foundation to contain inflation by ending the economic indiscipline. These were difficult decisions, but we need to make difficult decisions to change the fate of the country and the nation. Thank God, the energy policy has also been successful. A five-year plan has been formulated to do away with the practice of power loadshedding. The present prospects of foreign investment have never been equaled in the past. Work is continuing on the [Chashma canal's] left and right bank outward draining plan to deal with waterlogging and salinity problems. Extensive roads, bridges and tunnels are being constructed. Every year 6,000 villages are being provided with electricity, compared to 2,600 villages when we started in 1988. The World Health Organization has lauded the government's antipolio campaign. We have started telecasting PTV through satellite. Administrative control has been strengthened to the extent that action is taken against anyone committing illegal actions, no matter if he is the prime minister's brother, National Assembly secretary, president of a bank, police officer, or chief of an intelligence agency.

A women's bank and women's police stations have been formed so that women get respect. Female judges have also been appointed. A (?new) force has been set up to counter narcotics trafficking. Agricultural taxes have been imposed on feudal lords. The Farmers Window has been introduced to help farmers. A new housing policy is being formulated for laborers. A pilot project for housing for journalists will be started this year. A national science policy has been formulated, for which about 3 billion rupees have been allocated. Salaries of government employees have been raised. We will provide benefits to pensioners if the economy improves, God willing.

The process of privatization is so crystal-clear that it can be understood by the fact that the cost of a cement factory, which was estimated at 60 million rupees during the previous government, has now been sold for 500 million rupees. We have abolished bribery.

Keeping in view the small clique, which does not want progress in the country and launched a character assassination drive out of their need for power, we will enact new legislation that will mete out punishment to those who level false allegations and protect those who speak the truth. Leveling false allegations and indulging in character assassination are prohibited in Islam. The performance of the people's government can be seen from the Himalayan mountains to the sea near Karachi. The announcement of the Karachi package, the computer literacy program, the rapidity in extending Sui gas to various places, the coastal roads, the tractors plan, the pharmacies, and the ports in Gwadar and Thatta have brightened the entire country thanks to the blessings of the people.

My dear countrymen, today is 14 August 1994, Pakistan's 47th Independence Day celebration. I congratulate you on these celebrations, but they will be incomplete without the independence of Kashmir. These celebrations will be incomplete without the independence of Bosnia. This independence will be incomplete until every Muslim who chants: there is no god but Allah and Mohammad is the Prophet of Allah—is united. The meaning of this independence is not just the formation of Pakistan. It is the cohesion of all Muslims under one platform, which is the first link and base for the establishment of Pakistan. The Muslims of the subcontinent drew the borders of God-given Pakistan with lines in their blood on 14 August 1947. They laid the foundations of this house by sacrificing their lives. We remember all of this, and we salute the drops of blood from every one of those martyrs which were spilled on this sacred land. This blood and those sacrifices form the bright chapters of the history of this country, but today we need more sacrifices for the development of Pakistan. We should have the flowers of development bloom in this land. We should bury the politics of hatred. We should make our beloved Pakistan the cradle of happiness.

My dear countrymen, 14 August is not just Independence Day. It is the day of those mothers who sacrificed their valiant sons for this country. It is the day of those sisters who sacrificed their brothers for this country. It is the day of those children whose fathers were sacrificed for this country. It is the day of those women who sacrificed their husbands for this country. It is the day of those old fathers who sacrificed their sons for this country. It is also the day of those youths who sacrificed their lives for this country. It is the day of those women who, after holding the green and crescent flag, finally took them to their goal. This is the day of all of us—the living and all those who have been sacrificed on this country. I salute every sacred soul that sacrificed itself for this country. Today, those souls would be seeing that their Pakistan has been put on the track of progress. Today they would also be witnessing that the Pakistan People's Party's [PPP] government has brought their Pakistan to a new path of prosperity.

The PPP government is the government of those martyrs. The only difference is that it was born after the creation of Pakistan. However, my countrymen, my dear martyrs, the soul of Jinnah, can all come and see and testify that this party is taking Jinnah's Muslim League with it. Today, the PPP and Jinnah's party are two strong arms of Pakistan which are united. They are the two wheels of the vehicle of progress, they are the two eyes of Pakistan which are bright, shining and awake. No enemy today should consider us distracted or weak. Every Pakistani is united today, every child of Pakistan is united today.

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Sisters and brothers! History will see that the PPP government will rest only after making this country a golden land. We will make it the exceptionally developed country at the international level which you and I have been dreaming of.

Sisters and brothers! Our beloved Pakistan was created in 1947, and what a strange coincidence that today it has been 47 years since Pakistan came into existence. Our great leader Jinnah gave you the gift of Pakistan as he promised on 14 August 1947. Today, the daughter of people's leader Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto promises you that she will only rest after making Pakistan a model country in the world. History will see and ensure that Benazir Bhutto gives you this gift. I know that you have witnessed unbearable grief in these 47 years and endured exploitation. I feel the agony of all that grief and the hardship of sacrifice. I promise that this exhaustive and distressing journey will end soon, God willing.

The goal of progress and prosperity is clearly visible and we will rest only after arriving at our destination. Come, let us go forward. Let us go forward hand in hand and united as Pakistanis.

Long Live Pakistan.

Sri Lanka

President Denies Report on Radio, TV Control

BK1308113794 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] President D.B. Wijetunge has categorically rejected a BBC report that the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation and the Sri Lanka Rupavahini [Television] Corporation were to be brought directly under his control. The report was broadcast on the South Asia program last night.

The president says that the allegations were absolutely false and baseless and obviously made to discredit government. He reiterated that he had no intention whatsoever of bringing any government department or institution under his control.

President Appeals for Peaceful Election

BK1308122394 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] President D.B. Wijetunga has called for a free and fair election that would not be disrupted by violence.

In a statement issued today, the president appealed to all candidates to avoid violence in any form. He assured voters that the authorities have taken every possible measure to maintain law and order. The people would thus be able to exercise their franchise without being intimidated.

Mr. Wijetunga pledged that plans by rival political factions and subversive groups to disrupt the polls would be thwarted by police, and other law enforcement authorities have been ordered to intensify their patrol. He also stressed that violence would not be tolerated in the aftermath of the next week's election. The president appealed to all Sri Lankans to cooperate with the election commissioner and his staff.

Army Reports 46 LTTE Killed 11-12 Aug

BK1308122494 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Some 46 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists have been killed in clashes with the security forces in the North and East over the last two days.

The Operational Headquarters of the Defense Ministry also reports the security forces personnel recovered large hauls of terrorist arms, ammunition and equipment. Two terrorists were killed in a confrontation with troops operating outside forward defense lines in the Poonrevn area of the Kilinochchi District on Thursday. A large group of LTTE soldiers withdrew after a brief firefight, but were later ambushed by the Sri Lankan troops. Seventeen bodies of terrorists were recovered during subsequent search and clear operation.

At about 1630 on the same day, terrorists disguised as Sri Lankan soldiers killed some policemen when they attacked the BNC police checkpoint in the Manner town. Eleven other policemen were injured. The body of one LTTE soldier has been recovered. Search operations are still in progress.

The LTTE yesterday launched simultaneous mortar attacks on the Tirukonamadu and (Atehrveli) camps while advancing on a temporary jungle base in the Batticaloa District. Troops at the temporary base in (Khadmuravikulam) counter attacked, forcing the LTTE to withdraw after approximately two hours. The bodies of 25 terrorists have been recovered along with arms and ammunition.

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